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Japan

U.S. Agrees 'in Principle' To Extend NTT Pact

OW1811134592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Japan and the United States have agreed to meet again in December to discuss extension of a bilateral arrangement for procurement of supplies by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), the government announced Wednesday.

The announcement made by the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry said the two countries were unable to agree on terms of the extension at their meeting held in Hawaii recently.

The agreement, due to expire at the end of December, stipulates NTT must apply fair and indiscriminate procedures in procurement of supplies from domestic and foreign firms.

Japan proposed that the agreement be scrapped when a pact governing NTT's procurement is worked out under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), while the United States insisted on the continuation of the bilateral arrangement, ministry officials said.

Washington also demanded the Japanese Government establish a panel to deal with complaints concerning NTT's procurement, the officials said.

The two countries have agreed in principle to extend the existing pact.

Kato Comments on Russia-ROK Summit Talks

OW1911123292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 19 Nov 92

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] Commenting on the Russo-South Korean summit talks, Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told reporters that the government rates highly Russian President Boris Yeltsin's interest in security in Asia. Kato said it should be noted that Yeltsin and South Korean President No Tae-u agreed that they regard the possibility of North Korea's nuclear capability as a threat to Russia, South Korea, and the rest of the world. Also commenting on the fact that the leaders of Russia and South Korea have met while President Yeltsin's visit to Japan is still uncertain, Kato said he did not think relations between Japan and Russia are in a hopeless situation. He said Japan's position is unchanged and that it is ready to take part in discussions to promte bilateral relations. In this way, he reacted calmly to the Russia-ROK summit talks.

DPRK Reportedly Pre-Planned Collapse of Talks

SK1911013392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea, for reasons as yet unknown, went into the normalization talks with Japan earlier this month intending to walk out, a Foreign Ministry official charged Thursday.

Shigeo Takenaka, deputy director-general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, claimed that no one in the North Korean delegation was fluent enough in Japanese to have written the statement released after the talks collapsed.

The statement must, therefore, have been prepared in Pyongyang before the North Korean delegation left for Beijing, Takenaka said.

Pyongyang and Tokyo held their eighth round of normalization negotiations in the Chinese capital Nov. 5, but the talks collapsed on the first day.

The North Korean delegates walked out when Japanese officials demanded explanation for a woman that they claimed Pyongyang had abducted. The woman, identified as "Yi Un-hye," had allegedly given language training to Kim Hyon-hui, who sabotaged a South Korean passenger plane in 1987.

Japan would try to find out why North Korea purposefully broke off the talks, Takenaka said.

Comment on UNTAC Request To Fly Other Troops

OW1811141792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Japan should grant an informal request by the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia to airlift troops from other countries aboard its military cargo planes, a senior government official said Wednesday.

"Japan should actively engage in such activities to contribute to the U.N. peacekeeping operations," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

His remarks followed a request from an official of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), who asked Japan to fly non-Japanese peacekeepers from Cambodia to a Thai naval base in U- Tapao on its C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

The official also said he has instructed the cabinet's liaison office in charge of U.N. peacekeeping matters to consider how far Japan could cooperate with the request under the constraints of related laws.

Japan flies the Self-Defense Forces cargo planes once a week to transport necessary supplies for its engineering

troops from the Komaki Air Force base in central Japan to Phnom Penh via Manila and U-Tapao.

The UNTAC official has sounded out Japan on the possibility of using the aircraft to move U.N. troops to U-Tapao on their way back to Japan after they unload supplies in Phnom Penh, the official said.

The government is awaiting a formal request from UNTAC and possibly will grant it by amending Japan's peacekeeping program, the official said.

Such an alteration would require cabinet approval and a report to the Diet.

The Philippine Government has also sounded out Japan on whether Tokyo could use its cargo planes to airlift supplies between the Philippines and Phnom Penh.

German Economics Minister Urges Partnership

OW1911050292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0431 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday that Japan and Germany should forge a partnership in the international arena, a Finance Ministry official said.

Japan and Germany are playing increasingly important roles in international affairs, and should maintain close contact, the official quoted Moellemann as saying.

Moellemann, who is also vice chancellor, told Miyazawa that while the two countries are economic competitors, they are not in confrontation and can cooperate.

Miyazawa, noting that Germany plays an important role in resolving problems in Eastern Europe, said he is hopeful Germany will overcome the economic difficulties it has experienced since unification.

Miyazawa expressed the hope that Chancellor Helmut Kohl will visit Japan, the official said.

Kohl was earlier scheduled to visit Japan in October but postponed the trip because of tight schedules. The chancellor's visit is tentatively rescheduled for next February.

Moellemann is here to participate in the second Japan-Germany trade forum.

ODA Offered to Chile After 20-Year Freeze

OW1811134792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Japan agreed Wednesday to extend 24.4 billion yen in low-interest official development assistance (ODA) to Chile, thawing a 20-year freeze on economic aid to that country.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his Chilean counterpart Enrique Silva Cimma exchanged documents in a ceremony on the Japanese assistance.

Silva is in Tokyo accompanying President Patricio Aylwin, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a five-day official visit.

Watanabe and Silva also exchanged letters of intent in which Japan pledges to extend 40 million yen in a grant to finance the purchase of classical musical instruments for the Santiago symphony orchestra, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Japan suspended disbursement of yen loans to Chile in 1973 in view of the military rule of former President Augusto Pinochet, who overthrew the socialist government of President Salvador Allende in a 1973 coup.

The government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa took the decision to lift a freeze on the economic aid in view of democratic and economic reforms that have made headway under the elected government of President Aylwin, the officials said.

The untied loan carries an annual interest rate of 3 percent, they said.

Chile Supports Tokyo's Permanent Seat at UNSC

OW1811135492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Chile's President Patricio Aylwin told Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday [18 November] that Chile supports a permanent seat for Japan on the United Nations Security Council.

In a meeting with Miyazawa at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, Aylwin requested Japan's support for Chile's membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, a 15-member consultative group with its secretariat to be situated in Singapore, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Miyazawa replied that Japan would consult with other countries on the issues of expanding APEC membership, the officials said.

Aylwin expressed Chile's desire to play an active role as a member of the Asia-Pacific region.

Miyazawa lauded Chile's progress in implementing economic and political reforms, noting Chile is one of a few countries with which Japan maintains a trade deficit.

Officials said Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who also attended the talks, asked for assurances that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) formed by the United States, Canada and Mexico, not become a protectionist trade bloc. Chile, which already has a free trade pact with Mexico, is reported to be the next country in line to join the grouping.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma replied that Chile is determined to see that free and open trade between countries prevails.

Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley warned, however, that NAFTA could indeed be transformed into a protectionist trade bloc if the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks collapses.

Aylwin, 73, an elected civilian who succeeded military strongman Augusto Pinochet as president in March 1990, arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a five-day official visit, the first ever by a top Chilean leader.

Officials said Aylwin made no mention in his talks with Miyazawa about Chile's objection to passage through its territorial waters of a Japanese ship transporting a ton of plutonium to Japan from France.

Aylwin had earlier expressed concern about the undisclosed route to be taken by the 4,800-ton Akatsuki Maru, saying it poses an environmental danger to his country in the event it were to have an accident while sailing round Cape Horn, the southern tip of South America, to the Pacific Ocean.

He told reporters in Malaysia last Thursday he had discussed the issue with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and noted that Chile and Argentina have jointly expressed opposition to the ship entering their territorial waters.

The leaders of Japan and Chile agreed to back up Peru's democratization efforts, the officials said.

Aylwin told Miyazawa and Watanabe that he cannot support Peruvian President Albelto Fujimori's dissolution of Congress but is sympathetic with Peru's difficult situation.

The officials quoted Aylwin as saying that he hopes Peru will restore democracy through elections.

Peru is scheduled to hold Constituent Assembly elections on November 22.

Fujimori suspended Congress on April 5, saying that corruption was disrupting reforms and efforts to control terrorism and drug trafficking.

Fujimori has promised to reinstate democratic processes by holding elections for Congress next year.

Agency Says Aid Loans Bringing Good Results

OW1811140692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 18 Nov 92

[By Isao Ikariya]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Japan's foreign aid loans are making substantial contributions to developing countries, the government's aid agency said Wednesday in a report brushing aside criticism of the quality of its foreign aid.

The report from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) said a survey of six aid projects in five countries found that Japan's economic assistance brought "good results," as a whole, to people in those countries.

The six projects—two in South Korea and one each in Thailand, Indonesia, Egypt and Columbia—are among about 30 projects which were completed in developing countries in fiscal 1991 using yen loans from the OECF.

The survey was conducted by aid experts and development project engineers on behalf of the OECF, agency officials said. It follows a similar study published in March.

The OECF is a government agency that provides soft loans to developing nations. It also invests in such nations, serving as a major channel through which Japan provides its official development assistance (ODA).

The latest assessment of aid projects involving OECF loans comes amid criticism of projects financed by Japan's Government aid, which a U.S. scholar said recently keeps American businesses out.

American University Prof. Margee Ensign said in her book that Japan's ODA is still structured to give lucrative contracts to Japanese businesses.

Tokyo claims, however, that nearly 90 percent of its ODA loans are untied, meaning that the recipient nations are under no obligation to buy Japanese goods and services for an aid project.

According to the Paris-based Development Assistance Committee, a panel under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Japan's overseas aid totaled 10.95 billion dollars in 1991, second only to the United States with 11.50 billion dollars.

But excluding military aid, Japan was the world's largest aid donor.

A summary of the assessment of the six projects are as follows.

1. A total of 83.33 billion yen in loans to Thailand's Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC).

The loans were provided in three branches in 1981, 1983 and 1986 to the BAAC to provide the public financial institution with finances needed for agricultural loans. A sample of farmers surveyed found that the loans were used successfully for development of individual farms by allowing them to purchase agricultural machinery.

2. A 72.4 billion yen loan to Indonesia signed in October 1988.

The loan was extended with a view to helping Indonesia cope with balance-of-payments problems caused by a sharp fall in crude oil prices. The sum was equivalent to some 8 percent of Indonesia's external government debts in fiscal 1988 and greatly served to rectify the balance-of-payments problems.

3. The 14 billion yen loan for a dam project in Chungjiu, South Korea, signed in January 1978.

The project was designed to build a dam to prevent flooding, to generate electricity and expand water

supply. The project turned out to be successful without causing notable environmental problems. There were also no problems for people who were displaced by the project.

4. The 20.4 billion yen loan for a dam project in Hapcheon, South Korea, signed in October 1983.

The project, designed to prevent flooding, to expand electricity and water supply, was found to be successful in achieving its goals. No significant environmental problems have been reported.

5. A total of 8.8 billion yen in loans to Egypt for an electric power plant and related electricity supply facilities in Aswan.

The project was aimed at expanding electricity supply to meet growing demand in Egypt. It proved to be successful in improving electricity supply conditions in that country. A World Bank assessment of the power plant project also drew the same conclusion.

6. The 12.3 billion yen loan for a dam project in Colombia, signed in March 1980.

The project in Salvajina was designed to prevent flooding, to expand electric power supply and clean up the Cauca River. This project was found successful in reducing flood-caused damage and increasing the power supply. As for the river clean-up, the project produced limited results. No environmental problems have been reported.

Takeshita Faction Split Now Said Inevitable

OW1911050092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—The breakup of the largest faction of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) became inevitable Thursday as two rival groups held separate meetings in a squabble triggered by the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money and mobster scandal.

A group nominally led by Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata met at a Tokyo hotel for a "study session" which was denounced by the other group, headed by former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi, as an "action of a faction within the faction."

The Hata group, which is led in reality by Ichiro Ozawa, also a former LDP secretary general, has refused to recognize Obuchi as leader of the faction, which was founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. It was headed by LDP power broker Shin Kanemaru until he quit politics last month.

Kanemaru admitted receiving 500 million yen in illegal political donations from the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery company and gave up his seat in the House of Representatives. His subsequent retirement sparked off a power struggle within the faction.

But until Thursday the rival groups had kept to a tacit understanding to show restraint about their differences while the Diet is in extraordinary session to discuss the government's supplementary budget to prop up the flagging economy.

Political analysts, however, viewed the meetings Thursday as a decisive indication that the Takeshita faction will split into two.

Twenty-seven members of the lower house and seven proxies attended the Hata group meeting Thursday morning.

The Obuchi group responded by deciding to name its members to vacant executive positions within the faction.

LDP Legislator Implicated in Sagawa Relations

OW1911052692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Fukuoka, Nov. 19 KYODO—A former deputy transport minister admitted Thursday he obtained a 100 million yen bank loan through a guarantee granted by a Nagasaki-based subsidiary of the Sagawa Kyubin trucking group in June 1990.

Fumio Kyuma, a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and currently chairman of the House of Representative's Committee on Transport, said he used the money to buy stocks that the head of a cosmetics company recommended to him.

"I made considerable profit out of them, but as it was not insider trading, I have nothing to feel uneasy about," Kyuma said.

According to Kyuma, the president of Nagasaki Daiichi Unso, a transport company operating mainly in Kyushu and a subsidiary of Sagawa Kyubin Co., made a 100 million yen time deposit at a local bank to furnish him with deposit certificates he needed to obtain the loan.

When he had repaid the entire 100 million yen in September 1991, Nagasaki Daiichi Unso immediately canceled its fixed time deposit, Kyuma said.

On May 1, 1991, Kyuma was appointed part-time director of a subcontractor of the Nagasaki Transport Company, but had to give up the post, when his business activities became known in February this year.

LDP Fails To Break Diet Impasse on Testimony

OW1811135592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) failed Wednesday evening to break the Diet impasse over demands by opposition parties that key figures in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal testify before the legislature.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki repeatedly proposed holding a meeting of secretaries general separately with three major opposition parties—the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

But the SDP and Komeito rejected the idea, saying their demand that 10 people be summoned to the Diet as sworn witnesses on the scandal should be met.

The opposition particularly insists former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and three other figures, including Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., should give testimony.

Kanemaru was admitted to hospital Monday for eye operations, but Watanuki hinted that questioning him at his bedside might be possible.

The SDP and Komeito rejected the offer. Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the SDP's Diet Affairs Committee, told reporters, "It is meaningless to hold such a meeting without knowing what will be discussed."

The two parties argued that further discussions are necessary among directors of the House of Representatives budget committee.

DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi said, however, the party is ready to accept the LDP's request for holding a meeting of secretaries general if testimony by Takeshita and Kanemaru is guaranteed.

At a press conference in Toyama, Ouchi said his party would go along with the LDP request on the condition the LDP guarantees the summoning of Takeshita to the Diet and bedside questioning of Kanemaru.

Ouchi also proposed a special panel could be set up to handle the questioning of the other three.

Watanabe is on trial for aggravated breach of trust in connection with loans and loan guarantees made to other companies and individuals.

The dispute over who should be summoned to the Diet is preventing the convening of the lower house budget committee, which is responsible for passing a proposed supplementary budget for fiscal 1992 ending next March.

If a meeting of secretaries general takes place, the possibility of Kanemaru's bedside testimony is expected to be a focal issue.

Kanemaru underwent surgery for glaucoma in his right eye Tuesday amid strong criticism by opposition parties that his sudden hospitalization was an attempt to avoid questioning.

He will also have surgery on his left eye and will be in hospital for two to three weeks, according to doctors at Odawara Municipal Hospital where he is being treated.

Opposition party sources said they suggested questioning Kanemaru at his bedside as a compromise to break the impasse.

Kanemaru resigned from the House of Representatives in mid-October after admitting he received an illegal political donation of 500 million yen from Watanabe in 1990.

He is also alleged to have used Watanabe as an intermediary to ask Susumu Ishii, the late leader of major crime syndicate Inagawa-kai, to help stop a rightist group's harassment of Takeshita when he was running for the LDP presidency in 1987. Takeshita won the post and became prime minister.

Tokyo Says No Sign of Economic Recovery Evident

OW1811015392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0114 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Anemic growth in consumer spending and sluggish corporate capital expenditure continue to keep Japan's economy in a stranglehold despite steady growth in public works outlays, the government said Wednesday.

In its latest monthly report on the state of the economy, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said the economy is in an "adjustment phase" and "the economic slowdown has been widespread."

In describing economic conditions, the report left wording unchanged from the previous report except for the new phrase that "public investment has been steady."

Among data pointing to steady growth in public works, the report cited starts on public works in September as showing a 41.5 percent surge from a year earlier, an increase that reflects the front-loading of public works.

The government announced in late March a package of economic measures, including one requiring more than 75 percent of public works budgets for fiscal 1992 to be spent in the first half, which ended September 30.

The EPA's latest description of economic conditions has barely changed from the previous report, suggesting the economy's current woes could continue well into next year, as many economists predict.

Growth in consumer spending has been slowing, while corporate investment in plant and equipment remains weak, particularly in the manufacturing sector, the report said.

Consumer spending and corporate capital expenditure are viewed as two of the main dynamos of economic growth.

As in past reports, the EPA singled out housing investment as one of the few bright spots in the economy, however, saying that there are signs of recovery in housing construction.

As reported earlier, housing starts jumped 10.4 percent in September from a year earlier to an annual rate of 1.41 million units, following increases of 12.0 percent in August and 4.9 percent in July.

"The economy is now being supported by housing investment and public works spending alone," an EPA official said, briefing the press on the latest monthly report.

The official said the timing of economic recovery depends on when consumer spending and capital expenditure will replace housing investment and public works spending as the driving forces of the economy.

"It depends on whether the baton can be passed smoothly," the official said.

Among other economic developments, the official noted that substantial progress has been made in unloading inventories, notably among steelmakers and other manufacturers of key materials.

This helped drag down the ratio of inventories to sales in September, although inventories of air conditioners, luxury cars and compact cameras remain at a high level, the official said.

The inventory-to-sales ratio is being watched closely as a decline in the ratio indicates that manufacturers are managing to reduce their inventories, thereby creating room to boost production and increase capital outlays.

But the EPA official said the situation is not such that a decline in inventories translates into a pickup of production.

"Final demand is still weak. So there will be an increase in inventories again if manufacturers begin to boost production," the official said.

Utsumi Expresses Caution on Pump-Priming Steps

OW1811134692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Makoto Utsumi, former Japanese vice finance minister for international affairs, expressed caution Wednesday of taking additional fiscal or monetary measures to spur the sluggish Japanese economy.

Utsumi, speaking at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, said he is cautious, but optimistic, of an immediate recovery and is concerned about "overdoing" pump-priming measures.

Japan's official discount rate was lowered in July by a half percentage point to 3.25 percent. A month later the government announced a 10.7 trillion yen economic package to bolster the economy.

He said the economic package has not yet been wholly implemented and that "we should see the effects of the measures," before making further moves.

Utsumi, who currently serves as a special advisor to the finance minister, hoped for an early Diet approval of the current fiscal year's supplementary budget, which serves as the core factor of the economic package. The package, however, has been delayed due to the recent political turmoil in Japan.

He said he is "very much concerned" about the soaring Japanese trade surplus, adding "the royal road" to better external balance is stronger domestic demand.

Utsumi, however, also defended the surplus, saying it could contribute to assisting developing nations if it is repatriated properly.

Japan's trade surplus this year up to October totaled 88.36 billion dollars, already exceeding an annual record of 82.74 billion dollars set in 1986.

Referring to the Japanese banking industry, he suggested the industry further distance itself from the Finance Ministry, saying the "inner circle logic" no longer works and that the distancing is necessary considering international standards.

Mitsuzuka Supports Deficit-Covering Bond Issue

OW1811135292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—A senior official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party called on the government Wednesday to issue deficit-financing bonds to make up for a revenue shortfall in fiscal 1993.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, head of a major faction in the ruling party, predicted in a Tokyo lecture that the government will come under pressure to issue deficit-covering bonds toward the end of the year.

He forecast a revenue shortfall in the current fiscal year will increase 2 trillion yen to 7 trillion yen in view of poor business performances by corporations amid the economic slowdown.

Mitsuzuka said Japan's economic growth for the current fiscal year ending next March is estimated at 2.0 to 1.5 percent against the government's target of 3.5 percent and that for next year the figure will be about 1.0-1.5 percent.

Miyazawa Sees 1993 Budget as Extension of 1992

OW1911040692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday the budget for the fiscal year starting next April 1 will be oriented toward revitalizing the sagging domestic economy.

He told reporters he expects next year's budget "to be compiled in extension of the current year's budget," which features massive public works spending.

There have been reports the Finance Ministry plans to make it a pump-priming budget, boosting public works outlays by 4.8 percent, the largest growth in five years.

The premier reiterated that the government will make up the expected massive revenue shortfall for the next fiscal year with funds from construction bonds and the government's investment and loan program, financed by steadily growing postal savings, rather than funds from debt-financing bonds.

With the economic slowdown eroding tax receipts, fiscal 1993 revenues are expected to be short by more than 5 trillion yen.

Frozen Sushi Arrives From California 18 Nov

OW1811140992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1259 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Osaka. Nov. 18 KYODO—Some 11,000 pieces of frozen sushi arrived in Osaka from California on Wednesday, as former executives of an Osaka-based sushi restaurant chain continued their plan to sell imported sushi in Japan, chain officials said.

Fujio Matsumoto and Haruhiko Saito established a new company named Rice Power Inc. in Kobe early this month after they quit Sushi Boy, where they originally planned the sushi import project, due to disagreements with other executives.

They said the imported sushi are prepared at Saito's factory in California, and the fish portion of each item is large enough so it will not be counted as a rice import.

The sushi will clear customs shortly and be sold at supermarkets and convenience stores, the officials said.

The sushi import project made headlines in Japan last month because the Japanese Government maintains tight controls on rice imports and distribution.

The government later approved the import of frozen sushi under the classification of "precooked food." But due to the management dispute, the project at one point appeared to fail.

North Korea

North, South Hold Nuclear Committee Meeting

SK1811141492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1304 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The 10th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] took place in Panmunjom today.

At the meeting, our side first said: An acute tension, that can only be seen in the event of a war, has been prevailing between the North and South. North-South relations have been escalating into a confrontation more serious than the one prevailing when there was no dialogue.

Our side added: This is because in early October, a time after the eighth North-South high-level talks were held, the South side decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States, which had been suspended, and conducted large-scale aggressive military exercises such as the Hwarang and Eagle-92 exercises.

Our side also said: Under these circumstances, out of a single desire to rescue North-South dialogue at all costs, our side convened the ninth meeting of the JNCC for 22 October on an emergency basis. At the meeting, our side advanced the constructive proposals that the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which may provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, be canceled, that its cancellation be announced at home and abroad by the end of November, and that any military exercise, in which nuclear weapons of foreign countries and their related equipment are mobilized, not be conducted to fundamentally remove the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula. After advancing these constructive proposals, which may break the deadlock in the course of implementing the joint denuclearization declaration in case the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise is canceled, our side proposed holding a sincere discussion.

Our side also said: If the South side had been interested at all in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, treasured North-South dialogue, and not wanted a nuclear war to break out on the Korean peninsula, it should have pondered over these important proposals of ours and assumed a positive attitude toward the proposals.

Our side also said: Instead of listening to our repeated advice, the South side more openly expressed its intention to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and committed a treacherous act by conducting the large-scale Eagle-92 joint military exercise and the Hwarang war exercise a few days before the first meeting of the North-South Joint Reconciliation Committee was held.

Our side also said: The South side, persistently adhering to the policy of confrontation, has been building obstacles to North-South dialogue. This is because, contrary to the spirit of the North-South agreement, it has failed to free itself from the policy of relying on outside forces, a policy designed to solve problems with the help of the United States. This is also because it pursues suspending North-South dialogue and reducing to nothing the North-South agreements, which have already been adopted and effectuated. And, this is also because it tries to deliberately aggravate, with the United States, the situation on the Korean peninsula and, in the long run, ignite a fuse for war.

Our side clearly said that if the South persistently conducts the Team Spirit joint military exercise and goes toward the road to a war, in spite of our repeated warnings, all North-South dialogue, including the JNCC, will be stopped.

Our side noted that, if the South gives up the antiquated attitude of depending on confrontation era foreign forces

and abandons dialogue-negating and war-oriented attitudes, and if it truly moves toward dialogue and peace, the North-South JNCC will smoothly proceed in accordance with the expectation of all fellow countrymen. Our side also added that, in that case, the date for the North-South simultaneous inspection will be moved up.

Our side repeatedly urged the South to take a sincere attitude toward discussing the inspection regulations. Our side stressed that the South side should withdraw its attempt to have the so-called special inspection and general military base inspection. Our side also stressed that the South side should allow our side to inspect the nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea without any limitations.

However, instead of positively responding to our side's just demand and claim, while saying that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is not a nuclear military exercise but a defensive exercise and that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is an essential for establishing security, the South side maneuvered to justify the large-scale nuclear war exercise.

The South side is trying to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise by repeatedly using unjust claims as a pretext. Our side claimed that this is an antinational and sycophantic thought to settle something by putting pressure on us using U.S. strength.

Our side asked the South side why it tries to persistently station the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea even today when all countries in the world, large and small, are withdrawing foreign forces from their territories. Our side asked the South whether it knows that its participation in the U.S. policy undermines national interests; and that the participation in the U.S. policy is a way of inflicting the calamities of nuclear war on our nation. Our side strongly urged the South to give a clear and responsible answer to the momentous proposal put forward by our side at the ninth round of the meeting.

While avoiding giving an answer, the South side repeated that when the issue of nuclear inspection is resolved, the issue of resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise will also be resolved.

Our side pointed out concrete facts demonstrating that the responsibility for delaying the discussion of the nuclear inspection regulations entirely lies with the South side, which has resorted to delay tactics with unjust excuses. Our side repeatedly urged the South side to give an answer to our proposal.

However, while avoiding giving an answer to the end, the South proposed to our side to conclude the talks.

While wrapping up the talks, our side stressed that the South should clearly know that only when the South side withdraws the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and gives up the nuclear threat against us, will the discussion of the regulations to verify the denuclearization proceed smoothly. Our side stressed that the South side should make a right decision.

Both sides agreed to hold the 11th round of the North-South JNCC meeting on 27 November.

Kim Il-song Hosts Luncheon in Sihanouk's Honor

SK1911085892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song met with His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and arranged a luncheon for him. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK state president, and his wife met yesterday with His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and his wife, who will leave our country after winding up their visit to it.

His Royal Highness Sihanouk and his wife were accompanied by Princess Norodom (Bofaderi), Cambodian vice minister of culture, and His Royal Highness Norodom (Narindrapong) at the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, his wife, and Kim Hyong-yul, our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song conversed with His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The luncheon the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song arranged for His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk was held in a warm atmosphere overflowing with feelings of friendship.

South Korea

Russian President Yeltsin Makes Official Visit

Yeltsin Arrives in Seoul 18 Nov

SK1811065192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0632 GMT 18 Nov 92

Seoul, Nov. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Seoul Wednesday for a summit and the signing of a South Korea-Russia treaty on basic relations.

Yeltsin, making his first Asian trip since taking office in June last year, was greeted by Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong in a brief arrival ceremony before heading straight to the National Cemetery to pay respects for soldiers killed in the Korean war.

He will meet with President No Tae-u on Thursday to discuss bilateral relations and settlement of the unhappy past, including the 1983 Soviet downing of a Korean Air Lines passenger plane killing all 269 people aboard.

Yeltsin is expected to express regret over the fatal incident at the summit and in his speech to the National Assembly, also on Thursday, while Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev or Deputy Minister Georgiy Kunadze meets with victims' families.

Officials said Yeltsin will announce Russia's Asian policy in his National Assembly speech.

The two presidents will exchange opinions on inter-Korean issues, North Korea's nuclear suspicions, and political developments around the Korean peninsula.

No and Yeltsin will sign the 15-article basic relations treaty on promoting economic, social, cultural and political ties.

Relevant ministers will conclude agreements on cultural coperation, mutual assistance in customs matters, and avoidance of double taxation.

Defense ministers are to agree on military exchanges arranging visits by observation teams and ranking officials.

Seoul and Moscow normalized relations in September 1990, giving South Korea ties with one of Pyongyang's strongest allies.

Yeltsin will attend a luncheon with South Korean economic leaders and tour the Samsung electronics plant before leaving Friday.

Further on Arrival

SK1811134992 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Seoul this afternoon on a three-day official visit to our country at the invitation of President No Tae-u. President No Tae-u and President Yeltsin will hold a summit talk at Chongwadae tomorrow morning. Reporter Kim Chun-sok has the report:

[Begin recording] [Kim Chun-sok] Russian President Yeltsin arrived in Korean territory amid the cool early winter weather. He was greeted by Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong. He gladly exchanged greetings with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and other people present to welcome him. With a big smile, he expressed the close feeling he has toward the ROK.

[Yeltsin in Russian with Korean translation in captions] Relations of mutual interest between the two countries will further develop in the future. A matter of concern and interest will be deeply discussed at meetings with President No Tae-u.

[Kim] Accompanied by his wife Yeltsina, President Yeltsin was the first Russian political leader—including a leader from the former Soviet Union—to visit the National Cemetery. He burned incense and paid respects to the soldiers killed in the Korean war. He completed the itinerary for the first day of his trip to open new relations between the two countries.

President Yeltsin will attend an official welcoming ceremony to be held at Chongwadae; will hold a summit talk with President No Tae-u; and will exchange opinions about the Korean peninsula, the Northeastern Asian situation, economic cooperation, and others. He will sign the treaty on the basic relations between the ROK and Russia.

President Yeltsin will visit the National Assembly to express regret over the Korean war and the incident of the shooting down of the Korean airline. He will reveal the Russian Government's new policy on the Asian security. [end recording]

Formally Welcomed at Chongwadae

SK1911032192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Rain forced the formal welcome ceremony for Russian President Boris Yeltsin inside the presidential office Thursday.

The ceremony was conducted in the first floor hall instead of in the garden and the welcoming speech was skipped.

President No Tae-u and First Lady Kim Ok-suk greeted Russia's first couple as they arrived amid a loud fanfare.

"Welcome. It must have been a long trip," said No.

No and Yeltsin met before, in December 1990, when the South Korean leader visited Moscow.

"We met two years ago in Moscow. It's good to see you again in good health," No said.

Yeltsin apologized for delaying his Seoul visit, first planned in September.

"Your Moscow visit and my Seoul trip will certainly develop our relations into a true partnership," he said.

The two presidents saluted their country flags as the national anthem resounded the hall and then they headed upstairs for their summit. Kim Chong-whi, No's chief secretary for foreign affairs and national security, and Yeltsin's chief assistant, Dmitriy Ryurikov, sat in on the summit.

—While the presidents were upstairs, the first ladies talked about first impressions of Seoul.

Naina Yeltsin talked about her stroll around Mt. Namsan Wednesday evening, when she saw the prettiness of Seoul.

"I am happy to see you in good spirits this morning. I was concerned you might be exhausted," Mrs. No said.

Yeltsin, No Discuss Economic, Nuclear Issues

SK1911034292 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] President No Tae-u expressed the position that the success in Russia's policy of reform is also important

for the security of the Korean peninsula. He confirmed that the ROK will continue to assist Russia in achieving economic stability. Russian President Yeltsin pledged that he will make active efforts for North Korea to open up to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue.

President No Tae-u and President Yeltsin held summit talks on the morning of 19 November at Chongwadae and exchanged wide ranges of opinion for about one and a half hours on the situation of Northeast Asia, economic cooperation, and on ways to expand exchanges. The two presidents also signed the treaty on basic relations between the ROK and the Russian Federation.

During the summit talks, President No Tae-u emphasized that North Korea's nuclear issue is a grave threat to security and peace on the Korean peninsula. He requested that Russia help in persuading North Korea to carry out mutual South-North nuclear inspection so that doubts about North Korea's development of nuclear weapons can be dissolved. President Yeltsin expressed regret over the unhappy past, such as the shooting down of the Korean airliner and the Korean war, and pledged to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula and friendship and cooperation between the ROK and Russia.

During the summit talks the heads of states of the two countries exchanged wide ranges of opinion on economic cooperation and exchange such as the problems of constructing an ROK complex in the Maritime Province of Siberia, the development of natural gas in east Siberia, and cooperation of state-of-the-art science and technology.

Discuss DPRK Nuclear Threat, Cooperation

SK1911035392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0322 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed Thursday that development of nuclear weapons by North Korea was not desirable for peace and security not only in the Korean peninsula but throughout the world.

The two leaders also agreed to work together to help resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and induce Pyongyang from its isolation into the world community by encouraging it to adopt openness and reform.

The agreements were reached at a summit held at Chongwadae Thursday morning between No and the Russian president. Their one-on-one meeting, lasting 60 minutes, was followed by a 30-minute enlarged conference.

Yeltsin expressed his regret over the Soviet Union's participation in the Korean war (1950-53) and the shootdown of a Korean Air Lines (KAL) jetliner by a Soviet fighter plane in 1983.

Yeltsin handed over a tape from the black box of the downed KAL jetliner flight 007, sources said.

No noted that the North Korean nuclear issue is the biggest obstacle in inter-Korean relations and told his visitor that he appreciated Yeltsin's emphasis on the need for simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities by the two Koreas during the Russian leader's meeting with U.S. President George Bush in June.

Declaring that South Korea does not want North Korea's isolation, No requested Yeltsin for Russian restraint in its supply of offensive weapons to North Korea.

No asked Yeltsin for Russia's cooperation in fostering circumstances conducive for the two Koreas to solve their own problems peacefully. The South Korean leader sought Russian cooperation after he pointed out a possible danger in the event of unforeseen and drastic changes in North Korea.

Yeltsin explained the political and economic situation in his country and No promised that South Korea would help Russia as much as possible by taking part in international efforts to prop up Russia's staggering economy.

In addition, the two leaders agreed to promote cooperative relations between the two countries, resume South Korea's credits to Russia, and jointly develop natural gas fields in Yakutsk and Sakhalin, and Siberian forest.

No also asked Yeltsin to take appropriate measures for the restoration of honor and welfare for Korean residents in Russia who were forcibly resettled to Central Asia by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

The South Korean president expressed his desire to see a peaceful and satisfactory resolution of the so-called northern territorial issue between Russia and Japan. Yeltsin raised the issue of the Kuril Islands, according to the sources.

Further on Yeltsin-No Talks

SK1911080692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin nicely surprised South Korea Thursday by handing over the black box and its contents from the South Korean airliner downed in 1983 by a Soviet fighter jet.

Yeltsin and South Korean President No Tae-u signed a treaty on basic relations following their summit, after which the Russian leader said he had something to hand over.

"I hand over the black box and the tape to completely remove doubts regarding the KAL [Korean Air Lines] downing," Yeltsin said, handing over a bag containing the orange-colored box.

South Korean officials registered immediate gratitude, commenting on Russia's sincerity to resolve the controversy.

The 1983 shootdown killed all 269 people aboard, and the black box will hopefully explain how the KAL plane strayed off course into Soviet airspace.

—The summit lasted well beyond schedule when No and Yeltsin talked 50 minutes more than their given one-hour. Their expanded meeting with other government ministers was consequently cut short, to just 15 minutes instead of 30 minutes.

It was still raining when the presidents emerged from the summit, but they made the best out of it.

"It also rained when the U.S. President came to Seoul last January," No said while seeing Yeltsin off.

Yeltsin introduced an old Russian saying that a good thing begun in rain is always accomplished, an adage No immediately identified as similar to a South Korean saying.

Yeltsin arrived at the National Assembly in Yoido at 2:30 P.M. and was greeted by House Speaker Pak Chun-kyu.

He met with Kim Chong-pil, co-chairman of the majority Democratic Liberal Party, Kim Tae-chung, presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, and Chong Chu-yong, presidential candidate of the United People's Party, in the speaker's guest room.

Yeltsin expressed regret about his delayed Korean trip, slated for September, and asked that his visit be seen as a token of his respect for Korea's achievements.

Russia had returned to the ranks of civilized countries by ditching communism, he said, and was trying to learn from Korea's experience with a market economy and parliamentary democracy.

The Russian president said that he would hand over Korean war-related documents held by the KGB late next month.

He said that such incident was from an error of the former Soviet Union and that he thought that it was time to trumpet it to the world.

"Russia is still a power that has world history in its control," Kim Chong-pil said. "We think that it is a good thing to further friendly ties with Russia using Your Excellency's Korean visit as momentum."

Kim Tae-chung said Korea was invaded by Japan and China several times, but that Korea and Russia had no such past, hoping peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia and Korea-Russia economic cooperation would succeed based on the amicable history.

Korea and Russia were complementary and would be able to help each other economically, Chong Chu-yong said, asking Yeltsin to take care of the Russians of Korean descent.

Yeltsin said that he would care more for the Korean-Russians and construct buildings such as schools for them.

Yeltsin Promises To Stop Arms Supply to DPRK

SK1911083792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0803 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Thursday Moscow would stop supplying arms to North Korea and was having a new look at Russia's military alliance with the communist state.

Yeltsin also told South Korean President No Tae-u in their summit talks that Russia will hand over materials related to the Korean war as soon as its first-phase investigation is completed at the end of the year.

The materials would prove who started the three-year fratricidal war in 1950, he told No.

The Russian leader said that Moscow would provide utmost cooperation to solve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, Kim Chong-whi, No's chief secretary for foreign affairs and national security, said in a post-summit briefing.

No pointed out North Korea's unpredictability and the threat regarding its suspected nuclear development program, and Yeltsin made clear that Moscow had stopped supplying North Korea with nuclear materials and technology, Kim said.

On a request that Moscow not provide weapons of aggression to North Korea, Yeltsin gave an example of halting operation of an assembly line for MIG-29s as a promise to comply.

Yeltsin said Russia was reviewing an article in the Soviet Union's 1961 treaty with North Korea on friendship and mutual assistance that provides for automatic intervention in the event of a war involving either nation.

Moscow was interested in selling military technology and equipment to South Korea, and No said that he would tap the possibility after government consultations, Kim said.

Yeltsin told No he will discuss positive cooperation on Korean peninsula issues when he visits China next month and focus on joint military reduction.

In addition, the two leaders agreed to promote cooperative relations between the two countries, resume South Korea's credits to Russia, and jointly develop natural gas fields in Yakutsk and Sakhalin, and Siberian forest.

No also asked Yeltsin to take appropriate measures for the restoration of honor and welfare for Korean residents in Russia who were forcibly resettled to Central Asia by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Yeltsin Willing To Reduce Forces in Far East

SK1911103792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0955 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin disclosed the willingness Thursday to drastically reduce the Russian military forces including those deployed in the Far East area.

In an address at the National Assembly, the Russian president said, "I am willing to reduce the military forces from the viewpoint that our national interests do not conflict with but stand harmonious with the national interests of the Asia-Pacific area."

To this end, Yeltsin said, Russia has already discarded short- range missiles and ground-based tactical nuclear weapons while reducing by half the fleet of up-to-date submarines. "We will also substantially slash the battle ability of our Far East naval fleet," he said.

Stating that Russia has been exerting all efforts to help ensure genuine stability on the Korean peninsula, President Yeltsin said that "for this purpose, we have suspended military assistance to North Korea."

"Instead we will conclude a military technical cooperation agreement with South Korea, and will thus be able to furnish help to South Korea in the military technology and defense areas," he said.

Yeltisn expressed a regret over the downing of a Korean airliner, proposing to create a multilateral international investigation team with a power to look into thc papers held by all the countries involved in the incident.

On the Korean war, President Yeltsin said democratic Russia rejects the Stalin policy that had spurred the cold war system responsible for the Korean war.

He said Russia will find out all documents related to the Korean war and hand them over to President No Tae-u by the end of this year.

Vowing that Russia will not try to maintain division of the Korean peninsula to seek any military, economic and political gains, Yeltsin said Russia will become a reliable partner of South Korea in the sense that stability on the Korean peninsula is essential to ultimate stability in the Far East area.

The Russian president also asked Korean industries to advance to his country.

"We will guarantee Korean industries the most favored nation's treatment and endeavor to promote our bilateral relations by establishing a Korea-Russia goodwill association, a Korea-Russia culture and information center and a Korea-Russia language training center," he said.

Turning to inter-Korean relations, President Yeltsin said, "at this juncture when all external obstacles to unification have been crumbled, the key to unification lies totally in two Koreas."

He said that as the Russian president, he guarantees the construction of a Korean peninsula free of mass destruction weapons, expressing the hope that other world powers would join such a guarantee.

Yeltsin Asks for More Korean Investment in Russia

SK1911071092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Thursday that claims by some Western economists that investment in Russia was dangerous were exaggerations and asked Korean enterprises to expand investment there.

At a luncheon sponsored by the heads of four major Korean economic organizations, he predicted that in several years the Russian economy would solve the problems stemming from the transition to market economy and then Korean companies would find the Russian market to have been occupied wholly by other countries.

The Russian leadership was implementing economic reforms with firm resolution, he said, adding that nothing could turn back the clock.

Russia was planning measures to consolidate the legal base for protection of foreign investment, creating an insurance fund, allowing foreigners to participate in privatization of Russian enterprises and to purchase real estate, and providing them with tax benefits, he said.

The fact that Russia, despite its economic difficulties, repaid the interest on loans rendered by Korea last year tells of the importance Moscow attaches to the bilateral relations, he said.

Yeltsin Attends Official Banquet 19 Nov

SK1911123192 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1205 GMT 19 Nov 92

[By reporter Mun Chae-chol]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted on welcoming ceremony for Yeltsin] At an official banquet held at Chongwadae this evening, President No Tae-u stressed that the two countries are partners that are jointly marching toward the era of the Pacific. He also said that the ROK will assist Russia's reforms as positively as possibie.

[Begin No Tae-u recording] Would you join me in a toast for eternal friendship between our two countries? [end recording]

President Yeltsin said the recent history of relations between the two countries is filled with painful episodes,

adding: We cannot change the past. However, we must leave the dark chapter of history behind, and Russia is ready and willing to do so. I believe that the ROK has the courage to do so, he said.

Yeltsin, No Sign Treaty on Basic Relations

SK1911031192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0249 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia signed a treaty on basic relations Thursday, establishing cooperative relations between the former cold war foes.

With their unfortunate past in mind—the Soviet Union's role in the Korean war and the shootdown of a South Korean plane by a Soviet fighter in 1983—the treaty begins with a pledge to "overcome the consequences of the adverse period of their common history."

Presidents No Tae-u and Boris Yeltsin signed the treaty at the end of their summit.

Yeltsin arrived Wednesday, becoming the first Russian leader to set foot in the South Korean capital. Seoul and Moscow normalized ties in September 1990.

The 15-article treaty names freedom, democracy, human rights and a market economy as common values, and vows cooperation between the governments and the peoples to "contribute not only to their mutual benefit but also to the peace, security and prosperity of the Asian and Pacific region and throughout the world."

It provides the basis for improving the living conditions of ethnic Koreans in Russia, mostly descendants of those abandoned by Japan after World War II after being taken there as slave labor.

The two countries "recognize the rights of its nationals or citizens originating from Korea or Russia to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, and to use their own language," the treaty says.

The treaty, to last for 10 years, promises that the two nations will refrain from the threat of use of force and will settle all disputes through peaceful means.

It opens the way for regular consultations between heads of state, foreign ministers, lawmakers, and local government officials.

It highlights extensive cooperation in economic and industrial fields and in exchanges of scientists and technological research.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and his Russian counterpart, Andrei Kozyrev, followed with the signing of an agreement on cultural cooperation and a convention for the avoidance of double taxation.

Under the convention on taxation, real estate income will be taxed by the state where the property is located and so will the profits from operation of ships, aircraft or any other means of transportation.

Taxes on business profits apply only when the business is of a permanent establishment, it says.

For dividends, interest and royalties, all taxes are in principle levied by the other state, but dividends and royalties may be taxed by both sides depending on the law of the contracting countries.

The 23-point agreement on cultural cooperation covers theater, music, arts and education to encourage reciprocal scholarships and exchange programs.

Seoul and Moscow are to establish a joint commission on cultural relations to discuss details to cooperation projects.

'Text' of Treaty Published

SK1911104992 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 19 Nov 92 p 2

["Text" of ROK-Russian basic treaty]

[Text] Hoping to strengthen relations of peace and friendship between the two countries and to promote closer economic and cultural cooperation between their people; keeping in mind the traditional relations between the people of the two countries while vowing to overcome legacies of their unfortunate past; firmly believing that future relations between the two countries should be developed on the basis of their shared values of respect for human rights and the market economy in a free democracy; firmly believing that the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and between their people will contribute not only to mutual interests of the two countries, but also to peace, security, and prosperity of the Asian-Pacific region and the rest of the world; clarifying once again that both countries will respect and abide by the purpose and principle of the UN Charter; and reaffirming that the Moscow Declaration of 14 December 1990 will continue to be the guideline for relations between them, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation agree to the following:

Article 1:

The ROK and the Russian Federation shall develop friendly relations according to principles of respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and political independence; noninterference in domestic affairs; and other established principles of international law.

Article 2:

1. The signatories shall not exercise armed threat or use armed force in relations between the two countries in accordance with the UN Charter, and all disputes between the two countries shall be settled by peaceful means.

2. The signatories shall make maximum use of the United Nations in solving international disputes. They shall cooperate with each other in enhancing the United Nations' role in maintaining peace and security in the world.

Article 3:

1. The signatories shall cooperate with each other in promoting stability and prosperity in the Asian-Pacific region.

2. The signatories shall strengthen mutual cooperation, such as exchange of intelligence, within the framework of international and regional organizations.

Article 4:

1. The signatories shall hold regular consultations between heads of state, foreign ministers, ministers, or representatives of the two countries in order to discuss matters of common interest, such as international and regional issues, and matters related to relations between the two countries.

2. These consultations shall normally be held in the ROK and Russia alternately.

Article 5:

1. The signatories shall promote a broad range of contacts and ties and relations between the peoples and public organizations of the two countries.

2. The signatories shall support contacts and exchanges between parliamentarians of the two countries.

3. The signatories shall encourage direct contact between local governments of the two countries.

Article 6:

1. People of a signatory country may enter, exit, travel, and stay in the territory of the other signatory country in accordance with the law on foreigners' entry and stay.

2. People and juridical persons of a signatory country shall enjoy complete protection and safety within the territory of the other signatory country in accordance with relevant laws.

Article 7:

1. The signatories shall promote and develop a broad range of reciprocal cooperation in economic, industrial, trade, and other domains based on principles generally acknowledged in international practice.

2. The signatories shall promote and develop cooperation particularly in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fishery, energy, mining, communications, transportation, and construction.

3. The signatories shall promote and develop cooperation in the field of environmental protection and reasonable utilization of natural resources based on mutual interests.

Article 8:

1. The signatories, recognizing that scientific and technological cooperation is very important in promoting the welfare of the people in the two countries, shall develop a broad range of cooperation in the science and technological field for peaceful purposes.

2. The signatories shall direct special attention to promoting exchanges of scientists, as well as of results of scientific and technological researches in scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries, and to promoting joint research projects.

Article 9:

1. The signatories shall promote and satisfactorily carry out diversified and close contacts and cooperation between business circles of the two countries.

Article 10:

1. The signatories recognize cultural assets of two countries which have been inherited over several centuries and shall promote exchanges and cooperation in the fields of art, culture, and education.

2. The signatories shall promote mutual exchange and cooperation in the fields of mass media, tourism, and sports and encourage youth exchanges.

3. The signatories shall take special interest in increasing the knowledge of each country's language and culture. Each signatory shall encourage the establishment of cultural and educational institutions and promote their activities so that figures in those fields can broadly approach the other signatory's language and culture.

Article 11:

Each signatory recognizes that Korean or Russian ethnic people and citizens in their respective territories have the right to enjoy their own culture, to believe in their own religion, and to use their own language.

Article 12:

The signatories shall be deeply concerned over the increase of international crimes and strengthen efficient cooperation in making efforts to repress organized crime; international terrorism; illegal trade of narcotics and psychotropic drugs; illegal acts that threaten the safety of maritime travel and civilian airliners; counterfeiting and smuggling, including illegal trafficking of animals and plants in danger of extinction or their parts or derivatives; and objects that have national, artistic, historical, or archaeological value.

Article 13:

This treaty shall not influence either signatory's rights or duties vested under currently effective international treaties and agreements. It shall not be invoked against a third country, either.

Article 14:

The signatories shall sign treaties and agreements, if necessary, to implement the goals of this treaty.

Article 15:

1. This treaty shall be ratified and become effective 30 days after the ratifications are exchanged.

2. This treaty shall be valid for 10 years and remains in force after that time until it is terminated in accordance with this article.

3. A signatory country can terminate this treaty on or after the original expiration date of this treaty by giving one year written notification to the other signatory country.

Yeltsin Visit Seen Strengthening Economic Ties

SK1911095392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0719 GMT 19 Nov 92

[By Pak Se-chin]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to South Korea this week is expected to be a catalyst for expanding economic cooperation between the former ideological enemies.

After the communist bear and capitalist dragon cemented diplomatic ties in September 1990, economic exchanges and cooperation developed rapidly until they hit a snag with the disintegration of the Soviet Union in December last year.

Russia emerged as the leading republic in the splitting up, and defaulted on its obligations to pay the interest on 1.47 billion U.S. dollars in loans from Korea to the Soviet Union, freezing economic relations.

The unfurling political instability played a positive role in pushing the smooth economic partnership between Russia, inheritor of the dissolved union, and South Korea into a morass.

The payment of outstanding interest was solved just days before Yeltsin arrived Wednesday for a three-day visit. Russia paid South Korea 13 million dollars of interest on tied loans in cash and agreed to pay 37 million dollars of interest on bank loans in aluminum ingots in the first half of next year.

President No Tae-u promised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Seoul would extend the 3 billion-dollar loan package before setting up diplomatic ties.

But no sooner had South Korea released 1.47 billion dollars in loans than the Soviet Union disintegrated under the global thaw that saw the last act in the cold war last year.

Amid rising political jitters in Moscow, Yeltsin's decision to visit Korea, snubbing wealthy Japan, could mean that he wants a breakthrough for the problem-ridden Russian economy saving the head-racking territorial dispute over the four Kuril Islands with Japan for later talks.

Seoul and Moscow underwent active exchanges in many fields, including resources development, fisheries and aviation, from the moment of diplomatic normalization until the Commonwealth of Independent States replaced the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Two-way trade jumped to 1,202 million dollars in 1991 from 889 million dollars a year earlier and 600 million dollars in 1989, but grew a slight 8.1 percent to 764 million dollars in January-September this year from the same period last year.

The slow growth was attributed to Seoul's halt of economic cooperation loans in December last year due to Moscow's failure to pay the interest.

Korea mainly exports consumer goods and imports raw materials. Home appliances, ships, garments, cold-rolled steel sheet and plastics represent 50 percent of all Korean exports to Russia.

Russia received 24 million dollars in 20 Korean investments by the end of June, an average investment of just 530,000 dollars excluding the forestry development project of the Hyundai Group.

The investments were focused on small-scale light industrial ventures such as food, marine products processing, garments and trade in Moscow, the Far East and Kazakhstan, where many Korean-Russians live.

Under way are feasibility studies on 10 joint-venture projects including the development of the Yakutsk gas field in Siberia. Imports of soft coal, oil goods, uranium and non-ferrous metals and logs are becoming brisk.

Development of the Yakutsk field, estimated to have 600 million tons of reserves, will produce 10 million tons of natural gas a year if it is properly developed.

A Korea-Russia consortium, including nine Korean companies, seek to bury a 5,500-kilometer pipeline from Yakutsk to Fukuoka in Japan via Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Wonsan and Seoul.

The project will be launched formally after the working-level field survey.

In the scientific and technological cooperation field, the two countries are carrying out 74 joint projects to commercialize Russian high technologies.

They have already seen the results in seven categories, like diamond-like carbon film, magnetic oil-filter and composite materials.

The two countries signed a fisheries agreement in September last year, paving the way for South Korean vessels to fish in the Russian Far East sea. Joint ventures for fisheries processing are being promoted.

Korea and Russia opened direct air and sea routes and are also actively pushing ahead with joint ventures in the communications field such as laying an opticfiber cable connecting Russia, Korea and Japan.

Accords on trade, an investment guarantee, science and technology, fisheries, and aviation have been inked.

The two countries will sign pacts on the avoidance of double taxation and inter-customs cooperation during Yeltsin's visit and will launch a joint committee on economy and science, headed by deputy premiers, soon.

Yeltsin's trip is sure to help clear away stumbling blocks to the improvement of Korea-Russia economic companionship, but experts advise Seoul not to hastily pursue economic cooperation with Russia, citing that political instability still haunts the government in Moscow.

Russian Reports on Yeltsin's Visit to ROK

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For Russian reportage on the official visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the ROK, including his talks with President No Tae-u and the text of his 19 November speech to the ROK National Assembly, see the Russia International Affairs section of the 19 November Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ROK Investors Said Losing Confidence in Russia

SK1911072892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0701 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—If South Korea is reluctant to invest in Russia, Russian enterprises will have to turn to other countries for economic partners, a senior economic official from Moscow told a seminar Thursday.

Victor Kozevskiy, director-general of Asia-Pacific affairs at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, said Korean companies had lost the confidence in Russia that they had strongly held until a few years ago.

Asia and the Pacific were surfacing as the center of world economic development since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and economic cooperation between Russia and Asian countries was important, Kozevskiy said.

The two-hour seminar, sponsored by the Korea-CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) Economic Association, was attended by some 180 Korean and 140 Russian businessmen and economic officials, including Alexandr Shokhin, Russian deputy premier for foreign economy, Korean Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su and Nikolay Malyshev, counselor for science and higher schools to President Boris Yeltsin.

Talks on Intellectual Property Set With PRC, Russia

SK1611023592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea will hold separate meetings with Russia and China on intellectual property issues as economic exchanges and cooperation with these countries are on the rise, the Korea Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) said Monday.

KIPO Commissioner Kim Tae-chun will go to Beijing Nov. 23 to attend the first South Korea-China conference of patent commissioners, officials said.

The Beijing meeting will be preceded by a conference of Korean and Russian patent experts in Moscow Nov. 19-21, they said.

Following the normalization of relations with Russia and China, South Korean investment and transfer of technology, especially to China, have been rising sharply. The government hopes to help prevent possible disputes involving intellectual property, the officials said.

With China, South Korea plans to sign an administrative cooperation agreement for the protection of industrial property.

As for the Moscow conference, it will be a follow-up to the first conference, held in Seoul in May. At the Moscow meeting, the two sides will exchange information on patented technologies and their possible transfers between the two countries. They will also discuss ways to boost exchanges of experts on industrial property, they said.

The KIPO has asked its Russian counterpart for information on 203 cases of patented Russian technologies. Of which, Russia sent information on 65 and the KIPO is seeking detailed information on 14 of them at the request of Korean enterprises, the officials said.

Aviation Talks With PRC Open in Seoul

SK1611023292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—Four-day South Korea-China aviation talks opened here Monday to decide the control transfer point and number of airliners for direct flights between the two countries.

The two sides were near agreement on most of the details at the last talks, in Beijing right after diplomatic normalization on Aug. 24.

But Beijing insists on setting the control transfer point at 125 degrees east longitude, which officials here say encroaches on South Korea's flight information region.

Seoul insists on 124 degrees, recognized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and used for special charter services during the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Beijing wants direct routes between local cities by a single designated airliner, while Seoul wants free competition among multiple airliners.

Some 90,000 people traveled between the two countries last year.

Kim Sok-u, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, leads the talks with Ke Deming, deputy director of the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Seoul Normalizes Ties With Croatia, Slovenia

SK1811045292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea normalized ties with the former Yugoslavian republics of Slovenia and Croatia on Wednesday.

South Korean ambassador to Austria Yi Se-yong signed one set of normalization papers with Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, and ambassador to Hungary Pak Yong-u signed the other set with Croatian ambassador Aleksandar Solc.

Both are effective from Wednesday, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Seoul recognized the two countries in April, after they broke with Yugoslavia last year.

South Korea now has diplomatic relations with 167 nations.

North To Pass Laws To Ease Foreign Investment

SK1611080992 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 16 Nov 92 p 2

[Report by Hong Kong-based correspondent Yun Tuk-hon]

[Text] North Korea will promulgate new laws in December to supplement the Foreigners' Investment Law which it announced last October in a move to welcome ROK investment only and to facilitate investments by foreign countries including the ROK. The new laws will include the law on free economic and trade zone, the foreign exchange law, the banking law, and the tax law.

According to Professor Kim Song-hun (director of the Northeast Asian Institute of Chungang University) who participated in the third Northeast Asian Forum held in Hong Kong on 13 and 14 November, an official from the North Korean External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee [as published] participating in this conference made it clear that "the Korean compatriots" noted in Article 5 of the joint venture law which North Korea announced last October—which stipulates that "the Korean compatriots who are residing outside the North Korean territories can participate in joint ventures according to this law"—include people from the ROK.

According to Professor Kim, the North Korean official said: We have completed the construction of the framework for a 150-room hotel in Najin-up on the Tumen River, but we urgently need investment for it. We welcome South Korea's sole investment as well. North Korea has no problem concerning this. North Korea's allowing South Korea to make sole investment is not confined to the Tumen River basin development.

The North Korean official said that the Supreme People's Assembly has already finished the deliberation on the abovementioned four laws for the promotion of investment and that these laws contain the legal devices to facilitate foreigners' investment, such as acknowledging the right to use land for 50 years; optional choice of the type of enterprise in relation to the individual sole investment, the joint venture enterprise, and the joint collaboration enterprise; preclusion of the nationalization of foreign enterprises; and guarantee for production and profit.

No Tae-u Talks on Elections, Foreign Affairs

SK1711130392 Seoul SBS Television Network in Korean 1125 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Interview with President No Tae-u by Seoul Broadcasting System anchorman Maeng Hyong-kyu at the presidential residence of Chongwadae on 14 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Maeng Hyong-kyu] How are you? Mr. President, you always look healthy. What is your secret for good health?

[President No] Thank you. A president should be in good health. If not, a serious problem will occur. I think one of the duties of a president is the duty of being in good health. I always try to be in good health. I have always tried to lead a regular life. I get up early in the morning and exercise. To be in good health, not only is moderate exercise necessary, but good mental health is also important.

[Maeng] Mr. President, you have not only prevented a lame duck phenomenon in advance, but have also established a powerful government by inaugurating a neutral cabinet recently. What is the urgent task that you will push ahead with during your remaining term of office?

[President No] What is more important than anything else is to conduct a fair election in the upcoming presidential election. My most urgent task is to conduct a fair

election without the slightest degree of blot in the upcoming presidential election. We have barely recovered economic stability through our protracted efforts. We should also emphasize efforts to more rapidly push ahead with economic development based on recovered economic stability. Another urgent thing that I should do is tighten stronger social discipline and discipline among public officials in particular, so that a lame duck phenomenon can be prevented. Generally, people worry about a lame duck phenomenon at a time when a regime is transferred to another regime. Our people, however, need not worry about it.

[Maeng] On 18 September you withdrew from the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and formed a new neutral, election management cabinet. At that time, many people were surprised at this. Do you still think that the decision you made at that time was correct?

[President No] Of course. Yes, it was a correct decision. As you know, democratization has been steadily pushed ahead and achieved in all fields of our society since the 29 June declaration for democratization was announced in 1987. One thing, however, which mattered most is the fact that disputes and controversies over unfair elections under the influence of government power, unfairness in elections, and the like continued in the past whenever elections ended. Elections are the foundation of democracy. More important is to firmly solidify this foundation. In order to finalize the goal of achieving the 29 June declaration for democratization by the end of my term of office without fail, I will see to it that the upcoming presidential election becomes a fair one. I will renovate the election experience so as to prevent possible disputes over the election aftermath.

Keeping this in mind, I announced the 18 September decision. After the decision was made, however, some people were concerned over possible confusion in administering state affairs and a lame duck phenomenon in my leadership. These worries have turned out to be nothing but baseless anxiety. We have, instead, come to have a stronger government. In other words, we have come to have a posture with which our government can more correctly push ahead with state affairs with neutrality. Therefore, I think that my 18 September decision was correct. [passage omitted]

[Maeng] I would like to turn the topic of our conversation to the outside world. Recently the United States held presidential elections and changes took place in Russia. Therefore, the international situation has changed rapidly. In what direction should we go to promote guaranteeing security and achieving reunification on the Korean peninsula?

[President No] I believe that the foundation for this should be guaranteeing security in ROK-U.S. relations through alliance and promise. We have carried this out successfully up until now in guaranteeing our country's security, achieving development, and furthermore in achieving reunification. The cooperative relations on guaranteeing security and furthermore promoting prosperity with neighboring big powers such as China and Japan will be achieved based on the foundation of guaranteeing security in ROK-U.S. relations. By doing so, our security will be guaranteed and maintained.

[Maeng] During your term of office you successfully led the northern diplomacy. Recently the ROK and China officially established diplomatic relations. Therefore, we have established official diplomatic relations with the four big powers in the area around the Korean peninsula. What will be the order of priority in our future diplomacy?

[President No] As you said, we established diplomatic relations with China in August, thus putting the finishing touches on our northern policy. In the past there were many internal as well as external barriers in working to achieve reunification. We can say that the external barrier is that many countries supported North Korea and followed its intention. Because of the success in the northern policy, however, these external barriers have all been eliminated. We have achieved complete cooperative relations with the four big powers—the United States, Japan, Russia, and China. I believe that centering on these four powers, our country can achieve prosperity and furthermore achieve reunification based on our country's security. I believe that the basis for this is to further consolidate relations with the United States and Japan, and all the more based on this promote friendly relations with Russia and China. This is a procedure which we must go through in our diplomacy. [passage omitted]

[Maeng] In view of your experiences, what is your opinion on the single-term system for the presidency?

[President No] Many countries of the world make it a subject of discussion on which is better, the single-term or the multi-term system for the presidency. I believe that there are advantages and disadvantages according to the situation. Both systems cannot satisfy the people. The people should decide on the single-term or multi-term system for the presidency by following the greatest common measure. When referring to the single-term system for the presidency, some people point out that it is inefficient because a policy cannot be promoted consistently. There are some countries that have adopted the multi-term system for the presidency because of this reason. However, when looking back at the past half century of our country's constitutional government's history, the single-term system for the presidency drove the people to a vortex because one person was in power, various stormy events took place as a result, and the people experienced very unhappy events. Our people today, therefore, view that this kind of past should not be repeated. Thus, I think that the single-term system for the presidency is better. [passage omitted]

[Maeng] You were president of the ROK for the past five years, which was the most important period in moving

toward a country contributing to achieving reunification, advanced economy, and world peace. How do you foresee the future of our country?

[President No] Our country overcame many difficulties. I am not praising myself, but the world's leaders and experts agree that our country overcame many difficulties. I believe that the future of our country is bright. We carried out democracy and I believe that this is the most ideal system in this world. People say that it is very difficult to carry out democracy but our country was successful. We also magnificently overcame its transitional period. I believe that whoever takes power in the future, democracy will not retreat. If the presidential election, which is our pressing task, is carried out well, we will obtain confidence from the past five years of achieving democracy, liberalization in all fields, and structural economic adjustment. We strengthened our economic might and national strength by more than two-fold. In the future, our country will be an advanced country economically and culturally. I also believe that the national per capita income will amount to at least over $15,000 within the nineties, and reunification will be achieved within this century. If reunification is achieved, our population will be 70 million. Our population will be about 10 million less than unified Germany when reunification is achieved, but will have 10 million more people than Great Britain or France. Then our country will not be receiving assistance from another country as in the past but will justifiably help other countries, thus consolidating the position of a central country in Northeast Asia. Our future generations will have the honor of enjoying such a bright future. [passage omitted]

Spy Trial of Kim Tae-chung Former Aide Opens

SK1811100292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0827 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 18 (YONHAP)—A former secretary to presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party went on trial Wednesday in Seoul District Criminal Court charged with giving military secrets to North Korea.

"It is true that I handed the national defense budget outline for 1992, a class two military secret, to Hwang In-uk, my college friend, but I thought that it was not a military secret because it had been reported in the newspapers earlier and I never imagined that the document would be sent to North Korea," Yi Kun-hui told the court.

He was indicted in September for violating the Military Secret Protection Law and the National Security Law.

He said he suffered seriously because of some forces to capitalize on his case politically for the December elections and that he was sorry for Kim Tae-chung and the Democratic Party.

"Even the prosecution and the Agency for National Security Planning did not describe me as a spy, but some forces trying to politicize the case for the presidential election reported as if I engaged in espionage activities and I suffered so much.

"I apologize to Democratic Party leader Kim Tae-chung and the party for the damage that I unintentionally caused."

Controversy Over No Tae-u's Relative Examined

SK1911040392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Nov 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Choe Sang-hon]

[Text] President No Tae-u's apparent persuasion of his brother-in-law to not desert the majority party is kicking up a bitter controversy in the final month before the Dec. 18 presidential election.

After meeting with the President and other relatives at Chongwadae, Rep. Kim Pok-tong said he decided to bow to "sincere advice from his family members" and reverse his earlier decision to leave the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

"I decided to honor my family's advice that frequent changes of party affiliation, apparently in vogue among some politicians, could only lead to widespread distrust of politics," Kim said in a press release.

Despite the presidential office's insistence that this is strictly a "family affair," the minority parties angrily protested the President's role in the incident.

They questioned No's intention to remain neutral in the election-time politics and called for an immediate parliamentary investigation.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said yesterday that the majority party had no part in the matter and does not intend to meddle in the President's family affairs.

Analysts said that this latest political incident could unleash serious political unrest just as the rival parties are poised to jump into all-out campaigning for the presidency. The official campaign starts tomorrow when the government announces the election date.

The growing controversy centered on whether President No has been secretly helping the majority party despite his pledge of election-time neutrality. The affair, if anything, is likely to intensify such suspicions harbored by the minority parties.

Chong Chu-yong, leader of the United People's Party, was fuming with anger yesterday. Kim Pok-tong admitted in the press release that he had intended to join Chong's party. Chong alleged that the President pressured his brother-in-law, and asked No for an explanation when he visited Chongwadae for a scheduled meeting with No and Democratic Party leader Kim Tae-chung.

No insisted that his decision to intervene in Kim's case was not politically motivated. A presidential spokesman quoted No as saying that he convened a family meeting yesterday to seek the truth about the reported decision which Kim made without consulting members.

No admitted that he ordered the police to return Kim to Seoul before he reached Taegu where he was to have announced his departure from the majority party at a scheduled news conference.

The scandal all started Tuesday evening when Kim headed for his hometown of Taegu to announce his withdrawal from the DLP amid rampant speculation that he would join the United People's Party led by former tycoon Chong.

Kim couldn't make it. As his car veered off the Seoul-Pusan highway to enter Taegu, a group of plainclothes policemen stopped the car and Kim was whisked back to Seoul in a black Grandeur.

His whereabouts were unknown until yesterday morning and some morning newspapers splashed front-page banner headlines about the "kidnapping" of Kim.

Kim is said to have talked with his elder brother Kim Ik-tong, president of Kyongbuk National University, and Rep. Kum Chin-ho, another in-law of President No, overnight about his political move. They headed for Chongwadae yesterday morning to talk with No over breakfast.

Kim Pok-tong, 59, is a Korea Military Academy colleague of President No and ex-President Chon Tu-hwan. Kim and No were linked by a family connection when No married his friend's younger sister, Kim Ok-suk, now the first lady.

The retired three-star general gained his first Assembly term in the March general elections by running on the ticket of the majority party.

Kim is said to enjoy considerable popularity in his home district of Taegu, which is also the President's hometown. The voters in the conservative region traditionally opt for the government candidate, but the majority party won only eight of the 11 seats in the region in March. Such a less-than-landslide victory in its perennial stronghold was a humiliation for the party.

Kim's support would provide a much-needed boost to Chong's efforts to expand his popular support by recruiting influential politicians.

Chong's UPP, though founded only two months before the March parliamentary elections, did unexpectedly well by gaining 30 seats. It is now the nation's third largest political party following Kim Yong-sam's DLP and Kim Tae-chung's Democratic Party.

The former business magnate, however, is struggling against heavy odds in this all-important contest for power against the two Kims and has desperately sought alliances with outside politicians to inject vigor into his campaign.

His goal is to bring anti-establishment political forces into a "united political front" to break the mold of traditional politics dominated by the two Kims.

The scandal is likely to trigger speculation about President No's possible influence in election-time politics. Political observers here have often paid keen attention to the political maneuvers of in-laws to measure the President's intentions.

In an unprecedented move, President No severed his ties with the majority party in September to ensure a fair presidential election. He later introduced an election-time neutral cabinet headed by a non-partisan prime minister.

Cambodia

Montagnard Former Rebels Head for U.S. Asylum

BK1811111292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 18 Nov 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 18 (AFP)—A tribal army of U.S.-trained guerrillas gave up its long struggle against Vietnam's communists on Wednesday and headed for political asylum in the United States.

"This is a first step to a new life," said Colonel Yhinnie, a spry and bearded 45-year-old commander who spoke for the 398 montagnard rebels as they began leaving for resettlement in the United States on U.N.-organized flights scheduled over the next three weeks.

Yhinnie, along with the commander of the remnant force of the United Front for the Liberation of Oppressed Races (FULRO) Y Peng Ayun, and 41 others boarded a plane for Bangkok at U.S. Government expense. They were to spend three days in transit there before being resettled with fellow montagnards in the state of North Carolina, said Robin Davies, head of the International Organization for Migration office in Phnom Penh which arranged the trip.

"Now I can't continue fighting because the Montagnard people have a chance for a new life in a place where there is freedom," Yhinnie told reporters. "I cannot stay to live with North Vietnamese domination. I cannot live with communism," he said. "I will go to a free nation and then I am waiting for Vietnam to be changed...then I will go back."

The long-lost fighters had lived isolated in a remote forest clearing in eastern Cambodia, making hit-and-run attacks against Vietnamese military forces from their Cambodian sanctuary.

They were backed by the U.S. Government in the war against the North Vietnamese before 1975, then carried on their war independently ever since with the hope that their former backers would reappear to save them.

Yhinnie said FULRO had lost up to 4,000 fighters, mostly to sickness and disease, and only the 398 of them remained. Unwanted in Cambodia, a country undergoing a transition to peace under U.N. supervision, and unable to go back to their homeland in Vietnam, the rebels put themselves under U.N. protection and applied for asylum.

The group of devout Christians first made contact with U.N. peacekeepers in June. Uruguyan Colonel Leonel Milone was one of the first to encounter them.

"Their big plan was to bring down the government in Vietnam, but seeing the weapons they handed over to us, they would have lasted maybe five minutes" in full combat, he said. The rebels were armed with aged but immaculately maintained U.S. and Soviet-made assault rifles and a small amount of heavy explosives. They turned over 194 weapons and 2,567 rounds of ammunition. U.N. peacekeepers believe there has been no combat between the rebels and the Vietnamese for at least two years.

"I think they were just protecting themselves," he said. "The most difficult thing was to convince them to leave their weapons."

The rebels left behind their idyllic but harsh villages along the Orwei River about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the border with Vietnam's central highlands. They lived off the land, growing rice, corn, squash, pumpkins and chilli, raising chickens and catching fish. But about half of them were infected with malaria, infections, dengue fever and tuberculosis. Most have been cured by U.N. doctors, but many are still undergoing medical treatment in Phnom Penh, U.N. officials said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also helped in coordinating their resettlement and providing new clothing.

The montagnards were quite apprehensive about moving to a new country but felt their Christian beliefs would help them adapt, he said.

"They are very happy because we have a new life but worried because they can't read, can't speak (English), how to do, how to find a job," he said, "but we have new friends in the American people.

Khmer Rouge 1-13 Nov Truce Violations Reported

BK1911032492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] According to the Defense Ministry's Commission for Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations, between 1 and 13 November the Khmer Rouge continued to carry out activities in violation of the cease-fire, notably in a number of areas in the Provinces of Kompong Speu, Oddar Meanchey, Kompong Cham, Battambang, Kompong Thom, Pursat, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Kandal. Altogether there were 26 onslaughts, including six attacks on the people's villages, two ambushes, two assaults on the people's communal and village office buildings, five shellings, an operation to plant mines, and five shootings at UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] planes. As a result, six soldiers of the State of Cambodia were killed and six others wounded; a policeman was killed; eight villagers were wounded; two vehicles were damaged; four office buildings were destroyed; and the villagers were robbed of 120,000 riels, more than 13 tonnes of husked rice, five ox-carts, and some gold.

Details on Attacks, Casualties

BK1911041092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] According to the Commission for Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations of the State of Cambodia, last week the Khmer Rouge attacked positions of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] and some localities in Kompong Thom Province, killing five villagers and wounding 20 others.

As a matter of fact, at 2100 on 7 November a group of Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 802 sprayed bullets on villagers taking part in a Buddhist Kathen Tean festival at Choam Boeng Monastery in Choam Boeng village, Sreng Commune, Prasat Sambo District, Kompong Thom Province. As a result five people were killed and 20 others wounded.

On 11 November, 50-80 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 816 entered Khan village, Chamna Leu Commune, Stoung District, then arrested and took away two village guards.

On 12 November, 15 Khmer Rouge elements from Division 816 fired eight shells with B-40.5 guns and many rounds with TKM and AK firearms on the CPAF's position at Krabek Kraom area, Kompong Svay District.

Voter Registration in KR Areas Reported

BK1811063092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0407 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 18—UN electoral teams are registering thousands of Cambodians in areas under Khmer Rouge [KR] control, despite the radical faction's refusal to participate in the electoral process, the chief UN election officer was quoted by AFP as saying.

"Obviously that has to be done with care and diplomacy and with a careful eye to security," Reginald Austin, the Zimbabwean head of the UN electoral component here, said in an interview Monday.

The United Nations, implementing a peace treaty ending this country's 13-year civil war, is trying to hold a general election here by May 1993. It wants to set up a legitimate government that all world powers can recognize regardless of which side they backed in the conflict.

The problem is the radical Khmer Rouge—known officially as the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK)—refuse to disarm in accordance with the peace treaty and have so far refused to participate in the election process, which has registered more than one million Cambodians for the polls.

They control about 10 percent of Cambodia, although many areas are only nominally under their control, meaning there are no set barriers or front lines and people can move in and out with relative ease.

"Through diplomatic approaches, we've been able to talk to and start registration in areas which are nominally under the control of the PDK," Austin said, "we haven't been excluded totally from areas under PDK control... (and) we've certainly registered thousands."

Up to 100,000 people living in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas have been contacted by UN officials, Austin said, adding that it was just a matter of time before they would be registered.

In a country populated by only nine million people including 4.5 million potential voters, 100,000 is a significant voting bloc.

Areas where UN officials have penetrated include Cambodia's richest and most populous province of Kompong Cham along with the heavily disputed central province of Kompong Thom, Austin said.

He declined to give specifics for fear of jeopardizing the safety of the election teams, which are made up of two international supervisors trained in the Khmer language directing a crew of Cambodians.

So far the teams have registered more than one million Cambodians in the eight of 21 provinces where the process has begun.

"We have been registering at two times the rate. In some cases, three times the rate that we expected," Austin said, adding that the response had been overwhelming.

In Phnom Penh alone, 72 percent of the city's estimated voters have already registered.

Registration was supposed to have begun after UN peacekeepers collected all the guns in the country, but because the Khmer Rouge refused to disarm, the other factions declined as well.

Peacekeepers have now resigned themselves to maintaining an armed peace and protecting poll sites from armed factions.

UN French Troops Accused of Neglecting Duties

BK1911015592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Nov 92

[From the "News in Brief" feature]

[Text] According to the residents in Kompong Som city, the Vietnamese recently shipped 260 Vietnamese prostitutes from Vietnam for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials in Kompong Som city and Sre Ambel District [Koh Kong Province]. This is aimed at intoxicating the UNTAC French officials stationed there.

The people say the French soldiers, who are busy sleeping with prostitutes, are earning UN dollars for doing nothing. Everyday, they are preoccupied with sexual pleasure and are driving around with Vietnamese

prostitutes. They have neither controlled and verified the Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia, nor cared about the widespread banditry and assassination in the city and vicinity, as they are completely drunk with the prostitutes.

The people have added that the Vietnamese prostitutes have been systematically sent in by the Hanoi Vietnamese on spying missions, and to lead their existing forces in Cambodia. The prostitutes, who are part of the Hanoi Vietnamese's invading forces, have come to intoxicate the French troops, and to distract them from attending to the Vietnamese issue. That being the case, the Cambodian people detest the French soldiers who are acting on behalf of UNTAC. What the people have to do is to prevent these prostitutes from spreading AIDS to Cambodia.

UNTAC Issues 'Tough Call' Against Violence

BK1911093692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 19 Nov 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 19 (AFP)—A spate of politically motivated murders and bombings in Cambodia prompted the chief of U.N. peacekeeping forces here Thursday to issue a tough call for the Phnom Penh government to halt the violence. But United Nations peacekeepers will not go so far as to protect the opponents of the regime who are campaigning ahead of May 1993 elections under the threat of death.

At least three people around the country have been gunned down in cold blood and 13 injured—some seriously—in attacks and bombings with suspected political motives since August, according to U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) investigations. Reports of harassment and intimidation are more widespread.

"In view of the recent incidents of politically related violence, UNTAC will intensify its efforts to see to it that law and order are maintained effectively and impartially, and that human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully protected," UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said in a statement.

The efforts will not include direct protection of political party workers, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

"Reports have come to me from many provinces to the effect that political party workers have been subjected to intimidation, threats and even physical violence by the authorities," the statement added.

"It is obvious that a free and fair election cannot be held in circumstances where people face threats to their lives, liberty and personal security for attempting to exercise their political rights."

The statement affirmed that Cambodians have the right to join or reject whichever political parties they choose and be free from intimidation as a result of their choice.

"I want to assure the people of Cambodia that UNTAC will spare no effort to create and maintain the neutral political environment required for the holding of free and fair elections," Akashi said, calling on the factions to actively defend the electoral process.

UNTAC's head of civilian administration, Gerard Porcell, has ordered his directors in every province to meet with Cambodian officials and make them cooperate, Falt said. Porcell also received assurances from Phnom Penh's prime minister, national security minister and foreign minister that the provincial and district officials under them would comply with UNTAC's directive.

New rules stipulate that Cambodian officials cannot enter offices of their political opponents without UNTAC present and without full written authorization. Local authorities, including police chiefs, who violate any of the rules designed to create a neutral political environment in Cambodia can be held personally and legally responsible, Falt said.

In addition to grenade attacks on FUNCINPEC party workers this week, the killing of a Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) official in Sihanoukville in August and an attack on the KPNLF's political party office in Koh Kong Province last week, Falt reported other incidents of political murders that were not previously made known.

On November 2, KPNLF party worker Ath Sodhan and his mother were gunned down by seven men in their home in eastern Cambodia's province of Prey Veng, Falt said. The man was bound and tied in a blanket before his legs, chest and neck were riddled with bullets. He had fled to Phnom Penh in June fearing for his life after threats from Phnom Penh government authorities, but returned last month, Falt said.

Another KPNLF party worker was abducted and believed killed in the eastern province of Mondolkiri on October 20, Falt said. The body was not recovered.

In addition, the Khmer Rouge stopped a U.N. electoral team from carrying out voter registration in Stung Treng Province on Monday. The guerrillas surrounded the team of two civilians, two U.N. police, and four Uruguayan soldiers and kept them until the helicopter that had dropped them off returned several hours later, Falt said.

Other such incidents with the Khmer Rouge have been reported in central Kompong Chhnang and western Pursat Provinces, he said. All have been resolved peacefully.

Sihanouk Receives Greetings From SRV Leaders

President Extends 'Best Wishes'

BK1911034092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Nov 92

["Message of Greetings" to Prince Sihanouk from SRV President Le Duc Anh; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On your 70th birthday, I would like to extend best wishes to you and your consort. May you both have good health and glowing happiness.

The Vietnamese people continue to remember and keep the sentiment that you and the Cambodian people have expressed to them. As for myself, I firmly believe that you, in your capacity as the SNC [Supreme National Chairman] chairman, will make an important contribution to successfully healing national wounds and achieving national reunification in the country through the implementation of the Paris accord on Cambodia and to consolidating and expanding the traditional relations of friendship between the two peoples.

Your highness, please, accept my highest regards.

Pham Van Dong's Birthday Message

BK1911073192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 92

["Message of Greetings" to Prince Norodom Sihanouk from Pham Van Dong, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On your 70th birthday, which is an occasion of joy for you, your family, and the Cambodian people, I heartily wish you all the best. May you enjoy good health and happiness and achieve more successes. I also extend greetings to your consort, who is your faithful lifetime companion on your royal mission.

For me, this is an right time to recall the countless contacts that we both have had over the years that have shown the fine relationship between the two peoples. The Vietnamese people have accepted the goodwill that you have always reserved for them, especially during recent days.

I am firmly confident that with your outstanding reputation and in your capacity as the chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, that you will make an important contribution to the successful national reconciliation and reunification of the country through the implementation of the Paris accord, thereby paving the way for the reestablishment of a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia having friendly relations with all the countries, particularly with the neighboring states. In my view, this is also a good contribution to strengthening and expanding the traditional friendship and cooperation between the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples.

Your Highness, please, accept my respects.

[Signed] Pham Van Dong.

P.S.: I would like to add that due to my bad eyesight I deeply regret that I cannot write myself the precious words extolling our friendship and my best wishes for good health, happiness, and success needed by the Cambodian people, the builders of the temple of Angkor, for a life of peace, happiness, and prosperity under the august leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the great friend of Vietnam.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets British Delegation

BK1811064692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Nov (SPK)—Say Chhum, vice chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s Council of Ministers, recently received in Phnom Penh a British delegation led by Simon Makinson, representative of the British Chamber of Commerce stationed in Bangkok.

Say Chhum informed his guests of the SOC economic situation since the country's liberation in 1979 and the economic reforms in 1988, which created favorable conditions for foreign investments.

The SOC gives priority to investment in the sectors of agriculture, industry, communications, and tourism as the main basis for the restoration and development of Cambodia's national economy in accordance with the 1991-1995 five-year plan, affirmed Say Chhum.

For his part, Simon Makinson thanked the Cambodian leader for giving him a good briefing on Cambodia's economic structure and affirmed that British businessmen would have the possibility to consolidate economic and trade relations with the SOC.

English-Language Newspaper Published in Cambodian

BK1512120492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 15 (AFP)—A Malaysian publishing group on Sunday launched a Khmer-language edition of Cambodia's leading English-language weekly newspaper, THE CAMBODIA TIMES.

THE CAMBODIA TIMES, published by Kuala Lumpur-based Asia PR Publishing, began its English-language circulation in Cambodia in July and now prints 40,000 issues a week for the U.N. peacekeeping market and Cambodians who already read or are learning English.

The Khmer-language CAMBODIA TIMES, which is pro-Phnom Penh government, will have a circulation of 80,000 and will be distributed widely throughout Cambodia's provinces, the company said in a statement.

The current Khmer-language media market includes only government-run publications and competing newsletters from its rival political parties.

While the English-language edition is printed in Malaysia and flown into Cambodia, the Khmer edition is printed locally, the statement said.

The premier issue had a color photograph and a story about the failing Cambodian peace process on the cover, and included such international news as the result of the U.S. presidential election.

Indonesia

Clinton's Victory, Foreign Policy Examined

BK1911041192 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 5 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Enter Bill Clinton"]

[Text] Exit George Bush. Enter Bill Clinton.

The American people have made their choice: Bill Clinton, 46, was elected 42nd president of the United States yesterday in one of the most exciting elections in the U.S. history.

In Clinton, the American people seemed to find a "savior", a man with a lifeboat to save them from their sea of troubles.

Their message, as revealed by "exit polls" conducted right after voters left polling booths, is loud and clear: 43 percent said that jobs and the economy were their main concerns. The deficit was cited as a top concern by 22 percent.

Clinton, the third-youngest U.S. president ever and the first born after World War II, understandably must respond to the American people's plea. He has to put the economic problems of the U.S. on the top of his agenda. He has to fulfill his campaign promises to create jobs and slash the deficit.

Thus, at least in the first stage of his term of office, we think Clinton will have his hands full at home. People in the rest of the world who expect Clinton to be more outward looking than his predecessor may well find themselves disappointed. In one of his campaign speech on August 13, Clinton reportedly said, "My first foreign policy priority will be to restore America's economic vitality."

Yet, there are reasons to believe that Clinton may continue the present American foreign policy line. He has repeatedly stressed that the United States must continue to guide the world. "If we withdraw from the world it will hurt us economically at home ... Economic and foreign policies are two faces of the same coin", he said.

Is there a possibility that Clinton will drag America into the shell of isolationism, as many people—including here in Indonesia—fear? We do not believe so. As the last remaining superpower, the force of circumstances will not allow the United States to withdraw from its present stance. Besides, even if Clinton would want it, the American people and American pride—some people in the Third World have called it "American arrogance"—would not let him do it.

What concerns us is Clinton's lack of experience in foreign policy. He spent his entire political career in Arkansas. During his campaign, he did not speak much of the kind of foreign policy his administration was going to adopt. And come to think of it, we do not know much of his other policy beliefs, either. For many of us, he is still "Clinton the unknown."

We could attempt to make a prediction. But it would probably be a gloomy one, at least from our point of view. Judging from the reputation of the predominantly Democratic Congress, it is not difficult to guess what the impact will be of the presence of a Democratic president as well. The human rights and environment issues, for instance, will probably play a more prominent role in the United States' relations with other countries. As we mentioned in this column yesterday, we have to be prepared for the possibility of a "double impact".

But all that remains to be seen.

As a final note: With the Third World perspective in mind, we hope President Clinton will pay appropriate attention to world problems. To be the number-one country in the world also means to bear the associated responsibilities—among other things a responsibility for maintaining a congenial world order and wellbeing. Clinton has portrayed himself as a man who represents change. It is well to remember that there are things that have not changed for decades—like the fact that more than one-third of the world's population still lives in poverty. It is the responsibility of all mankind to solve this problem.

In his pursuit of the Great American Dream, we hope Clinton will not forget the dreams of the majority of mankind.

Clinton Urged To Stress Growth

BK1911084192 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 6 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Clinton's Trade Caveat"]

[Text] Most analysts attributed Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election on November 3 to his seemingly convincing promise to attack America's economic disease. But that commitment is precisely the cause of apprehension among governments and the private sector in Asia, including in Indonesia.

An expansive U.S. economy is a welcome tonic for the world economy. But the main question is how Clinton will go about reinvigorating the American economy. This has become more worrisome after the failure on Monday of the U.S.-European Community [EC] negotiations in Chicago to resolve their disputes over agricultural trade, which has made even bleaker the chance of concluding a General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) deal by the December 31 deadline.

If Clinton and his economic advisors decide to review anything agreed to so far between the U.S. and the EC, the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations under GATT

may drag on until after the installation of his administration in January. They may even continue until after the March expiration of the president's fast-track negotiation authority granted by the Congress.

The expiration of the authority will allow Congress to amend any GATT deal. This is worrisome indeed in view of the Democrat-dominated Congress' famous track record on trade protectionism over the past decade.

Looming over this dreaded possibility is the fear that the new American Administration may shift the focus of its attention from the mechanism of multilateral trade to the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] free trade agreement with Canada and Mexico. By nature exclusive, the agreement tends to impose managed, not free trade.

With Western Europe already geared up for its single market early next year, Asia may be forced to eventually set up a regional trading bloc of its own. EC and NAFTA members have repeatedly assured the rest of the world that their trading arrangements would not run against the interests of countries outside their regions but would instead generate more trade as their economies expand. That is theoretically all correct provided the trading blocs operate under GATT rules. But now since the future of GATT itself is uncertain, the absence of game rules may lead trading blocs into a trade war.

We doubt, though, that the leader of the world's only superpower, the largest economy and the champion of the free market, would risk going down in history as the one who triggered a world trade war. Judging from the big risk of such an action, Clinton and the team of his economic advisors seem too smart to slip into such a counter-productive policy. After all, that is not the grand vision that won him the presidency, and in so far as Asia is concerned, we think Clinton wants to continue to be closely associated with the region with the world's highest economic growth.

Moreover, we reckon that Clinton's election reflects the demand of the majority of the Americans for a strong leader who is expected to restore a strong sense of self-confidence to a nation which for years has been mired in numerous economic ills. Obviously, American economic dynamism cannot be restored through isolationism, the very condition that will arise if Clinton resorts to an inward-oriented protectionist policy.

Economic confidence can be restored through growth-oriented policies. Those Asian countries experiencing consistently high economic growth over the past decade show that economic dynamism can be created only under free and fair competition in the domestic market, high fiscal discipline on the part of the government and an open, free international trade system.

Clinton's Foreign Policy Considered

BK1811122192 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 6 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The Direction of Bill Clinton's Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Commenting on Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election a few days ago, most politicians and political analysts were optimistic that the superpower's foreign policy would not change. Such a prediction could be correct. The experts used the terms "nuances", "pressure", or "style" to distinguish the way the new president would handle his foreign policy from that Bush did in the last four years.

As President-elect Clinton said during his first news conference yesterday, the U.S. foreign policy and interests would basically not change. He even cited several important points that would remain his foreign policy's top priority such as the Middle East peace talks, follow-up nuclear arms reduction talks with Russia known as START II, economic aid to former Soviet republics, aid to famine-stricken countries like Somalia, and GATT talks.

Clinton did not specifically mention Southeast Asia. However, as political expert Prof. Dr. Yuwono Sudarsono said several days ago, the U.S. foreign policy toward Asia covered four top priority areas—political and economic relations with Japan, China, the Korean peninsula, and lastly Southeast Asia, including ASEAN.

Although Clinton's foreign policy will differ only in "nuances", "pressure", and "style" from that of the previous president, this cannot be ignored or underestimated because many examples have showed that such "nuances" are very important for countries affected by this policy and frequently interpreted more as a change in the U.S. attitude and policy than just a change in the "style" or "nuances."

The examples given by Prof. Yuwono raise fears that Clinton's style could lead to a "second Jimmy Carter" style. Jimmy Carter, U.S. president before Ronald Reagan, used human rights as the top priority and main consideration in international relations. On the contrary, this worsened relations between the United States and the countries concerned. Dr. Albert Hasibuan, a legal expert and general chairman of the Indonesian Lawyers Association yesterday described Clinton's future foreign policy as the "human rights diplomacy" [preceding three words in English].

Despite U.S. assurances that it is remains committed to the Middle East peace talks that took place in Washington D.C., Arab countries are still worried that Clinton will be more favorable toward Israel, unlike Bush who is more or less neutral toward Israel and the Arab countries. China, for example, is well aware that if another Tiananmen incident breaks out during the Clinton leadership, Washington would react differently and such a

reaction would be likely to be stronger and more businesslike than Bush's in 1989.

Another factor that should be considered to assess the leadership style of a U.S. president is the person who holds the post of secretary of state. In every U.S. Cabinet, the posts of secretary of state, defense secretary, and treasury secretary always become the focus of attention of other countries. Now, the post of the White House chief of staff may be added to the list. This post is considered important because he handles the president's communications and commands.

Various names have in fact emerged in the political circles in Washington and Little Rock (Clinton's current residence). However, we cannot predict who, among Clinton's close associates, will head the U.S. Department of State and translate Clinton's foreign policy into action.

In the next four years, we must also be prepared to deal with a U.S. Administration that will use human rights as a major criterion and emphasize domestic economy in its international relations. Perhaps, fears over its protectionism are exxagerated. However, as the United States will protect its own economy more, trade relations between the United States and many foreign countries will certainly be affected.

It is urgent that we in Indonesia anticipate the current developments in the United States. In less than three months, we will face an administration and a Congress dominated by the Democratic Party. It would be unwise of us to simply hope that the superpower's foreign policy not change, as Clinton's leadership style and his determination to give top priority to the improvement of his country's economy will certainly have an impact on Indonesia.

Minister Hails Results of Forum With Australia

BK1711160092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Indonesian-Australian ministerial forum, which took place in Jakarta, has contributed to the enhancement of bilateral relations. This will in turn contribute to regional and global peace and prosperity. Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economics, finance, and industry, said that the two sides agreed to establish working groups covering trade, industry, investment, and agriculture to further enhance economic and trade cooperation. During the ministerial forum, the two sides also agreed to develop closer dialogue and mutually advantageous cooperation in the field of remote sensing, oceanography, space technology, nuclear science, and technical assistance.

In the meantime, Indonesia and Australia agreed to cooperate in the total prohibition of nuclear testing and the 1995 [as heard] nuclear nonproliferation treaty. According to Radius Prawiro, the two sides said that the ASEAN free trade area was a positive development in the ASEAN region.

Paper Views Australia's Purchase of F-111's

BK1811145792 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 19 Oct 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Australia's Additional F-111 Fleet and Ambassador Siagian's Question"]

[Text] Day by day people have tended to believe that along with the ending of the cold war, the arms build-up would cease. It is true that the cold war has ended. But the arms build-up continues.

With numerous programs of arms purchase—on one hand, by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Isreal in the Mideast, and Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia on the other— Australia, which is in the Asia-Pacific region, recently announced its program to bolster its existing fleet of fighter bomber aircraft.

As such, people tend to believe that, as the cold war has ended, there would be no necessity for any more military power build-up. In fact, such an issue should be looked at with greater reality.

According to known reports, Australia plans to purchase a fleet of 18 F-111 aircraft. In his clarification, Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray stated that his country needed to purchase the F-111 aircraft because its existing fleet of 70 F/A Hornet bombers are short-range and low-altitude types—unlike the more sophisticated F-111's.

We were unable to make any assessment after hearing such a statement because everyone knows that the Hornet tactial bombers do not have the capabilities of the F-111's—the latter sometimes known as the Aardvark—which are medium range bombers.

In acknowledging Australia's statement that it needed an additional fleet of F-111's, it would probably create an understanding that the country was embarking on bolstering the capabilities of its bomber fleet—not only for a wider area but also toward a longer range. Compared to the F-18, the F-111's possess a greater offensive air-strike power. But as stated in this daily's last Saturday's issue, this does not mean that the F-111 needs no refuelling during its Australia-Jakarta sortie.

As a good neighbor, we should try to believe Australian Defense Minister Ray's clarification stating that the F-111s' would not be used to boost its air-strike power. Besides, the F-111's would be stockpiled and used as replacements for lost aircraft. By this method, Australia could prolong the lifespan of its existing fleet of 22 F-111's—which it first acquired in 1973—until beyond the year 2010.

Defense Minister Ray's clarification could be accepted as reasonable. First, it could be accepted that any sovereign nation has the right to acquire weapons for its defense purposes.

Such a clarification could be accepted as reasonable because no matter how versatile the F-111 was, the

supersonic swing and swept back-wing jet aircraft created by General Dynamics at the height of the U.S.-Vietnam war, nicknamed 'the flying coffin', encountered numerous fatal incidents. The American F-111 aircraft which took off from Britain's Lakenheath Air Force Base on a bombing mission to Tripoli in April 1986 never returned.

The F-111's operational capability has since declined considerably. Another method through which Australia could have bolstered its operational air-strike power was to purchase a more sophisticated aircraft that could totally wipe out its targets.

Probably, Australia could not provide more reasons for its air-power build-up. It could be possible that the country had no plan to purchase a more modern and sophisticated type of aircraft than the F-111—the latter being comparable to the Russian Tu22 Backfire or the U.S. B-1B aircraft. Viewed from the military strategic point, the reason behind Australia's option for the F-111 was mainly because the aircraft is an operational one and could fulfill a desired operational air-strike range.

Indonesian Ambasador to Australia, Sabam Siagian, questioned Australia's logic behind the program to purchase the aircraft. He said Australia's plan could raise possible scepticism concerning its seriousness in increasing security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Observed from Australia's 'possible' and 'forced to' stance on the aircraft purchase as stated earlier, we believe that its program should not be viewed as a questionable issue.

It is noteworthy that we should focus our attention on the subject of plutonium—which could be easily associated with the creation of a nuclear bomb by Japan. Numerous Japanese have commented: "Why should Japan be questioned? If Indonesia embarks on a similar course, Japan would keep quiet." We make such a comparison because, as a nation, we need to strengthen our Armed Forces from time to time.

Compared to the other ASEAN countries, our traditional weapons acquisition has been moderate—if not less—all along the New Order. We are committed to strengthen the ABRI's [Indonesian Armed Forces] capabilities in accordance with our budgetary provisions.

When we questioned Australia's program to acquire the F-111's, Australia, on the other hand, could similarly question our motive of acquiring a fleet of 42 F-16's, 70 Hawk 100's and 200 aircraft, 39 former East German warships, Tromp and de Ruyter anti-aircraft destroyers or the FSG-90 frigates.

We know that there were numerous comments made concerning the acqusition of weapons by neighboring countries. This emphasizes the need to foster a greater confidence-building measure among the neighboring countries.

In this connection, we welcome the Australian opposition parties concern over the reason why Australia did not consult its neighbors beforehand with regard to its program to purchase the F-111 aircraft.

Australia's program to acquire the fleet of F-111's heralds the dire necessity for the Asia-Pacific regional countries to further deepen their mutual understanding—whether such issues are related to strategic peace or apprehension expressed by another country.

Laos

EC-Sponsored Seminar on Water Management Closes

BK1911025092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] A two-day seminar on preparation for organizing a legal study on use and management of water for development purposes was closed with glorious success at the meeting hall of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry in Vientiane yesterday. The seminar was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Lao National Mekong Committee in collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Mekong Committee under the sponsorship of the European Community, EC. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Kithong Vongsai, deputy minister of foreign economic relations and chairman of the Lao National Mekong Committee.

Attending the closing ceremony were representatives of the Secretariat of the International Mekong Committee and representatives from various ministries and departments concerned with the use of water for development purposes such as the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the Industry and Handicrafts Ministry; the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry; the Economy, Planning, and Finance Ministry; the Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction Ministry; the Justice Ministry, and the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry. Also attending were representatives from Vientiane Municipality and from Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, and Champassak Provinces. More than 30 technicians and lawyers from the member countries of the International Mekong Committee, namely Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand, also attended.

Official Receives SRV Provincial Delegation

BK1711151992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] On 14 November, Dr. Siho Bannavong, vice chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality, received and met in Vientiane with a delegation of Vietnam's Vinh Phu Province headed by Phuong Duc Xung, chairman of that province's people's council standing committee. The delegation paid a goodwill visit to the capital. At the meeting between the host and guest, held under a warm and intimate atmosphere, Dr. Siho Bannavong noted that the delegation's friendship visit to the capital would serve to further strengthen

the relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the peoples of the two countries as well as between the residents of the city of Vientiane and Vinh Phu Province.

Philippines

NUC Chief Refuses U.S. Request on Rebel Amnesty

HK1911024892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] National Unification Commission [NUC] Chairperson Haydee Yorac has refused the request made by the United States not to grant amnesty to the killers of U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe, in reaction to U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon's statement that the issue is international in nature.

Yorac supported a former statement made by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa that granting amnesty to rebels is an internal affair in which the Americans should not intervene. She said President Fidel V. Ramos has refused to comment on the issue, adding, Ramos stressed the merits of the American position regarding the issue must first be studied before making any statements.

Meanwhile, Yorac has expressed hopes the peace talks between the government and rebel soldiers will start in December. Yorac said the NUC and the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Young Officers Union have already agreed on the talking points.

Regarding the Yuletide cease-fire proposal between the government and the New People's Army [NPA], Yorac said she is amenable to implementing the traditional Christmas truce from 31 December 1992 to 1 January 1993, which totals 48 hours. However, the proposal to extend the truce to another 48 hours from 24 December to 25 December, she stressed, is not acceptable. Yorac warned that on 26 December the NPA will celebrate its founding anniversary. She expressed fears the rebels might initiate violence that day.

Government Focus Shifts Toward Economy

HK1911020292 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 18 Nov 92

[From the "ABC DWET News Program"]

[Text] The Ramos administration reorients its policy on national security. Economic progress is now equated with the security and stability of the state. The big story from Tony Velasquez:

[Begin recording] [Velasquez] Under the previous administration, the National Security Council [NSC] was convened to tackle problems related to the communist insurgency and the rightists coup attempts.

Today, however, President Ramos said the bigger threat to the country's security has been the way Filipino leaders have been running the nation's affairs since independence.

There is a need, he said, for new intellectual attitude to replace what he describes as Filipinos' narrow notion of their role in the world.

The council members agreed that Philippine foreign policy should focus more on promoting business and trade opportunities for the country.

[Unidentified speaker] In our diplomatic survey, the diplomats all over the world will now be mobilized as part of our economic staff to induce more investments and trade into the country.

[Velasquez] But NSC members agreed that economic growth could be set back by the recent outbreak of crime, extremist threats from rightist and leftist forces, and the current energy crisis.

Vice President Joseph Estrada said his anticrime commission would do its part to prevent crime from disrupting the country's economic stability.

[Estrada] I have made the commitment to the National Security Council that within three to six months, the kidnaping for ransom will be under control or will be at manageable level.

[Velasquez] In connection with the peace and order issue, the chairperson of the National Unification Commission informed the NSC that formal peace talks with rightist rebels could probably be held sometime next month.

Aside from the ideological struggle for power, the NSC was also briefed on a different kind of power struggle: the energy crisis. The Energy Coordinating Council said Luzon and Mindanao would have enough power reserves to end their energy crunch by 1994.

With such high goals presented to the NSC, former President Corazon Aquino, who was invited to the meeting, appealed to the country to keep faith in her successor.

[Aquino] Certainly, once again, I appeal to all Filipinos to support President Ramos so that we will soon attain economic prosperity.

[Velasquez] The National Security Council has agreed to meet on a regular quarterly basis beginning next January. By that time, the NSC should hopefully be able to erase the Philippines image as a NATO country, meaning No Action, Talk Only. [end recording]

Meanwhile, at the Senate, the chairman of the Committee on National Security welcomes the new policy thrust. Senator Orlando Mercado said the NSC has correctly identified the economy as the major concern of government today.

Mercado proposed that the Armed Forces be mobilized to protect the country's resources.

[Begin Mercado recording] I believe that the military establishment will have to face up with the reality that if ever it has to move, if the military has to have relevance, it must be redefined in terms of its role. Resource protection, for example, the protection of our natural resources, to see to it that we will economically be viable. That means, even our modernization, as I have repeatedly been saying, has to be anchored on protection of the environment. [end recording]

Romulo Recommends Investment in Vietnam

HK1611121692 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Nov 92 p B-1

[Report by Romeo V. Mapile]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City—Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo yesterday said Filipino investments in Vietnam will benefit the Philippines in the long run.

Romulo said investments will generate goodwill among the Vietnamese people and any Filipino business undertaking will "come back 10-fold to the Philippines." Romulo described it as a pursuit of "enlightened self-interest" even as he noted that other countries are currently bidding for a share of the Vietnamese market. "The fact is we are wanted abroad," he said.

Roy Moreno of the SGV [accounting firm Sycip, Gorres, and Velayo] cited the need to move capital to lucrative sites. "That's the reality," he said.

Enrique Razon of the Manila Container Terminal Services Inc. said Vietnam offers opportunities for further growth. "The environment in the Philippines is not my fault," he said as businessmen in the trade delegation noted that the Philippines would be lagging behind in the effort to attract investors.

Foreign Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said Filipino businessmen should go along with the trend of adjusting or moving. "The world is getting introspective whether we like it or not," Severino said.

J. Marsh Thomson of the College Assurance Plan said: "we have to go where the opportunites are."

Romulo also appealed to businessmen that they should also exert more effort to expand in the Philippines in order to help the economy grow.

Filipino business leaders were given assurances by city officials here that all efforts would be exerted to facilitate their smooth entry into possible joint ventures in Vietnamese industrial development.

In a meeting with Ho Chi Minh city vice chairman, Pham Chanh Truc and officials of the People's Committee at the Municipal hall, the RP [Republic of the Philippines] businessmen led by Romulo expressed satisfaction for the warm reception.

Trade Secretary Says Country 'Ready' for AFTA

HK1811125792 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 18 Nov 92

[From the ABC-DWET Television News program]

[Text] Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro said today that the Philippines is ready to implement the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA] next year. He explained that the government is launching the Philippine Industrial Restructuring Program to help the private sector take advantage of AFTA.

The private sector is scheduled to submit a policy paper on promoting the development of the country's trade and industry to President Ramos on 20 November. More than 1,000 businessmen are now participating in a three-day conference sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Last night, President Ramos met with former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. Ramos said that the Philippines is ready to export agriculture and electronic products to Singapore. President Ramos also called for more Singaporean investments in the Philippines.

Ramos Asks for Greater Singaporean Assistance

HK1811050692 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Nov 92 pp 1, 17

[Report by Fred Lobo]

[Excerpt] President Ramos asked former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew last night for increased investments in the Philippines as prospects are now bright for improved bilateral relations and joint ventures between the two countries.

The President also called for continuing protection to thousands of Filipino workers in Singapore.

Ramos issued the call during a meeting last night at Malacanang with the visiting senior minister of Singapore. Lee is a political and economic patriarch and a respected leader of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

After the meeting, the President expressed confidence that the Philippines and Singapore will be able to narrow the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Ramos maintained that the Philippines is ready to supply semi-conductor devices, electronic microcircuits, and a range of other products to Singapore which currently enjoys the edge in the trading activities. He also said that the country can also provide agricultural commodities and food products to Singapore on a competitive basis.

During the half-hour dialogue, the President solicited the support of the former prime minister in convincing Singaporean investors to consider the Philippines and identify joint venture opportunities.

Lee was informed of the country's willingness to conclude a Bilateral Investment Guarantee Agreement with Singapore in the context of the ASEAN Investment Guaranty Agreement. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Editorial: UN Forces Should Stay in Cambodia

BK1811141392 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 18 Nov 92 p 5

[Editorial: "UN Forces Should Remain in Cambodia"]

[Text] The United Nations is reportedly planning to send its peacekeeping forces in Cambodia to Thailand. This is a big issue and one that the government should consider carefully before making a decision to accept or reject the UN request, because any move in this regard can have either a positive or negative impact on the people and the country.

The government should consider the reasons why the UN peacekeeping forces can not stay in Cambodia. The Paris agreement on the formation of the peacekeeping forces has stipulated that the forces will be based in Cambodia and all the duties of the forces will be carried out inside the Cambodian territory.

To relocate the base of the peacekeeping forces from Cambodia to Thailand will not be right and will not be convenient for the forces' operations in line with the aims of the agreement. The peacekeeping forces are not faced with any dangers in their operations. Although there may be inconveniences for the UN forces, they have become very familiar with the situation in Cambodia. So, they should persevere in their duties until the achievement of the goals of the UN.

If the UN forces withdraw from Cambodia, it means that they have failed and cannot help establish peace in Cambodia. It also means the collapse of Cambodia despite the fact that all the parties concerned have tried to support the establishment of peace in that country.

Thailand bore the adverse impact of the fighting in Cambodia for more than 10 years. The Thai people have now felt much relief since all the Khmer factions have agreed to rebuild the country with the United Nations acting as a mediator to end the conflicts between each faction—despite the fact that there still have been some robberies from the Cambodian side.

We should not be looking for further problems for ourselves since we have already gotten rid of the burden. The Thai Government and people have done righteously in helping to seek peace in Cambodia and establish good living conditions for the Cambodian people. The Thai people do not want to see any incident which may force Cambodians to flee into Thailand following a relocation of the UN forces.

Thailand is able to look after the life and supply of food for the UN forces in Cambodia without relocating the forces in Thailand. In fact, the UN forces should establish safety zones for themselves and the Cambodian people. Most Cambodian people still believe in the ability of the UN forces to establish peace and integrity for Cambodia and its people.

Ministry To Help Cushion Effects of UN Sanctions

BK1911032592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 92 pp. 1,3

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will do its best to help cushion the impact of the expected United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge [KR] but traders themselves must prepare for the possibility, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

The Foreign Minister made the statement after meeting some 50 Thai traders doing business with the Khmer Rouge along provinces bordering Cambodia.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Sarot Chawanawirat was also at the gathering. The meeting discussed business with the Khmer Rouge and traders were briefed on plans by the UN to impose punitive measures against the guerrillas for refusing to join the peace process.

The minister said some measures were being drawn up to cushion the impact of possible UN sanctions but he did not elaborate.

The minister is to visit the provinces of Chanthaburi and Trat this weekend. The two eastern provinces are adjacent to Khmer Rouge-held areas rich in gems and timber.

The minister noted that Thai entrepreneurs had invested some 10,000 million baht in precious stones and timber in Cambodia.

Preparations have been made for the evacuation of labourers involved in the activities, he said.

But the protection of the entrepreneurs' interests could not be guaranteed as the Government has no government-to-government investment agreement with Cambodia, he pointed out.

The Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia is a temporary administration, not a government, he said.

Thailand, as a member of the UN, will abide by the anticipated UN Security Council's resolution on Cambodia, he said.

But he questioned the effectiveness of sanctions as the Khmer Rouge have said they could survive through them, although it remains to be seen for how long.

He again stated Thailand's reservation towards a resolution that would infringe on Thai sovereignty and Thai law.

He stressed the need for the Khmer Rouge problem to be solved and reconciliation achieved before the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) leaves the country.

Lasting peace would be in question, with Thailand to be directly affected, if these problems are left unsolved, he said.

Work reportedly is under way in New York on a draft resolution drawn up by the Permanent Five members of the UN Security Council. The draft calls for a ban on export of logs and gems from guerrilla-held zones freezing of their assets abroad and an oil embargo against the communist faction.

The Foreign Ministry discussed the implementation of sanctions and it was concluded that the only possible way for the UN to police the measure was by aerial monitoring, sources said.

Prasong said the Thai ambassador to the UN was seeking a meeting with UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the sanctions.

The sanctions should not only bar Thai traders but everyone doing business with the Khmer Rouge, the minister said. He said he had received a report that traders of other countries might benefit from the sanctions .

On the ban on log exports from Cambodia that is to be effective from December 31 the minister said government agencies would help Thai traders beat the deadline.

The Thai Government has strong intentions to boost business in Indochina by promoting investment and introducing more border crossing points, he said.

While the unsolved situation in Cambodia obstructs these plans, Thai investors should look for long-term investment prospects and refrain from engaging in activities that could be deemed as exploitative, he added.

Prasong is due to meet today with the commander of the Chanthaburi-Trat force, Admiral Manat Phinkunbut, for a discussion of the border situation.

—Meanwhile, House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Krasae Chanawong said Thailand would abide by the UN resolution but also questioned its effectiveness.

He pointed out that some 100,000 Thai people were engaged in border trading with some 3,000-4,000 million baht invested in gems alone.

The UN therefore should be considerate of this country's position rather than "decide in New York that this or that should be done."

"Would the United States agree to a UN resolution to close its border if this risked having repercussions on 100,000 Americans?" he asked.

Some countries have survived without complying with UN resolutions while Thailand have abided by them all along, he added.

—Defence Minister Wichit Sukmak said the armed forces were ready to comply with government measures after the UN resolution is adopted.

Army Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit said the UN should not station troops on Thai soil without consulting Thailand first and obtaining its consent.

He said sanctions against the Khmer Rouge would not be effective because Thai people depend on trade along the border.

Paper Notes Impact of UN Resolution on Cambodia

BK1911103792 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 19 Nov 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Thailand and the Resolution on Cambodia"]

[Text] The UN Security Council is currently working on a resolution to solve the stalemate of the endeavors to restore peace in Cambodia. The resolution is reported to incorporate various measures including economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, the major obstacle to the peace process in Cambodia. Economic sanctions will certainly have some impact on Thailand.

The draft resolution stipulating economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge will adversely affect Thai entrepreneurs who have invested hundreds of million of baht in the logging business and gem mining in the areas under the Khmer Rouge's control. Tens of thousands of Thai laborers are working in the gem mining industry in Cambodia. These businesses will have to be suspended until the Khmer Rouge turns to cooperate and participate in the UN peace program.

It is quite certain that Thai businesses and trade activities will be hardest hit if the Thai Government complies with the UN resolution. In other words, there will be no trade with the Khmer Rouge, at least for a period of time. Therefore, the Thai entrepreneurs will have to decide for themselves what they should do with their businesses.

Another important point is that the UN economic sanction against the Khmer Rouge will be enforced, which will require the UN peacekeeping force stationed inside Cambodia to conduct regular patrols in Thai territory along the border. This measure, which aims to ensure the effective enforcement of the resolution, is a big job because the Thai-Cambodian border is quite long. The problem is that we cannot allow a breach of our sovereignty on our own territory by any foreign force.

It is apparent that all measures worked out by the United Nations are aimed at facilitating the general election, originally scheduled to take place in May next year. The United Nations is not concerned whether the Khmer Rouge participates in the poll or not. Up to this point, no one knows if the United Nations has fulfilled its task in Cambodia or not. Is it possible that the United Nations intends to set aside the Cambodian issue as it is now and turn to establish a new central government in Phnom Penh without the Khmer Rouge's participation? If that is the case, the fighting and chaotic situation will continue and Thailand will have to deal with more border problems.

The Thai Government has reportedly been making the preparations necessary to deal with any UN resolution on Cambodia. As the UN-sponsored general election in Cambodia is drawing near, it is deemed appropriate that the government, at this turning point, makes efforts and finds ways to defend our national interest in the long run.

Deputy Premier on Future Economic Development

BK1911033592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 92 p 20

[Text] The face of the Thai economy will change greatly in the next decade because business is becoming more international.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Amnuai Wirawan said the Thai economy in the period 1996-2000 should see growth rates of 7.5-8 percent, with an increase in purchasing power of about 7 percent a year.

Such expectations make it possible that the size of economy of Thailand will equal that of Indonesia, which is three times larger in terms of population, while the per capita income of Thai people will equal the current rates of Korea.

Key supports of the country's economy are: investment expansion, increased consumption and exports, and changes in the country's economic structure resulting from the Government's attempts to distribute growth and income to the regions.

The Thai economy will change in line with the restructuring of the world's economy, including the establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA], the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA], and the European single market.

Dr Amnuai said the agricultural sector will grow at 2.5-3 percent per year during 1997-2000, down from expected average growth of 3.4 percent during the country's seventh development plan (1992-96).

However, while the agricultural sector gets smaller, the industrial sector will be growing at around 9-10 percent in the same period, following continued investment expansion and the Government's policy of promoting supporting industries, especially agriculture-based industry, textiles and garments, petrochemicals, steel-based industry and electronics.

The high chance of industrial development and the general economy will further strengthen Thailand's service industry, which will enjoy growth of around 10 percent per year during 1997-2000, particularly as Thailand is emerging to become a regional economic centre.

The industrial sector will contribute to about 30 percent of the country's economy up from the current rate of 26.5 percent, while the agricultural sector will be reduced from a rate of 12.5 percent to only 8.6 percent in 2000. The export of industrial products will account for 80 percent of total exports.

Thailand export markets are expected to be very much diversified from the current major markets in the US, EC and Japan to countries in the Middle East, Africa and South America.

Inflation rates should be around 4.55 percent because of the restructuring of the Thai economy, including trade and finance sectors, that will help control inflation to a maximum of 5 percent.

He said the level of foreign investment in Thailand will not be as strong as in the past, but will remain at a favourable rate, with foreign investors concentrating on export manufacturing investment to benefit both domestic and regional markets.

Foreign investment will be supported by new infrastructure being implemented in the next five to eight years.

In regard to social changes, Dr Amnuai said the population and family structure of Thailand will change continuously, with population growth declining from 1.4 percent per year to only one percent.

The family control will result in a reduced number of children, thus allowing people in the near future to have more purchasing power for themselves either for education, travel, health or entertainment.

There is likely to be a rapid increase in the number of single families instead of the tradition of people of many generations living together. The average size of a family will be smaller, down from 5.4 people to four people, thus boosting demand for housing units and household products.

The rise in purchasing power and the smaller population growth will great change consumers' behaviour, with the ratio of food expenses declining and spending in health and entertainment increasing.

The chairman of Lever Brothers (Thailand), Wirot Phutrakun, said the consumer goods industry after the year 2000 is most likely to grow in a "dynamic" manner, because the industry will no longer be limited to the domestic market but will change to the region.

The widening area of coverage will result in many new challenges in the industry, demanding that manufacturers always adapt to the tough new situation.

The internationalisation of the consumer goods industry will be seen fast through the establishment of trade groups like NAFTA, AFTA, and the EC and the expansion of market size will very rapid.

The regionalisation, meanwhile, will encourage relocation of products sourcing based on comparative advantage. Malaysia, for example, will be the centre of palm-oil based goods while Thailand will be the regional base of detergent production.

Ex-Coup Plotter Returns From Abroad

BK1611015992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Manun Rupkachon, the alleged mastermind of the 1983 assassination plots against national leaders, is expected to surrender to Police Department chief Sawat Amonwiwat this week to fight the charges in court.

Sources close to the ex-army general told the BANGKOK POST that Manun has already returned to Thailand after spending more than a year in hiding overseas following the February 23 coup last year against the Chatchai Chuhawan government by the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC].

Manun was accused by the NPKC of masterminding assassination attempt against a member of the country's top institution and national leaders who included former prime minister Prem Tinsulanon and ex-military boss Gen Athit Kamlang-ek. The assassination attempts were claimed to have been made after Manun led a group of "Young Turk" army officer in an unsuccessful bid to overthrow the Prem government in 1981.

The source said Manun was confident that he could prove he was innocent. They said Manun decided to surrender after consulting with several senior politicians including de facto Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong Simuang, Chat Phatthana Party leader Chatchai Chunhwan and Democrat Secretary-General Sanan Kachonprasat. Maj-Gen Chamlong and Col Sanan were Manun's classmates at the Chulachomklao Military Academy.

The senior politicians welcomed Manun's decision to surrender so that he could fight the charges in court.

Manun, a leader of the Chunlachomklao Military Academy Class 7, fled the country in the wake of police allegations, backed by the all-powerful Chunlachomklao Academy Class 5 members in the NPKC, that he was the mastermind of the assassination plots.

Manun, who then held the rank of major-general and was assigned to assist Gen Chatchai, was implicated by Col Bunsak Phocharoen, his classmate who switched sides to become a key NPKC witness in the case.

Muan Chon Party leader Chaloem Yubamrung, who was then minister of the Prime Minister's Office, came out to defend Manun, saying the allegations were pure fabrication and offered to bring witnesses to counter the police charges. But his move was pre-empted by the NPKC-led coup and Maj-Gen Manun was subsequently stripped of his rank.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai asked for comment, welcomed Manun's decision to surrender, saying Manun "could not have run forever."

The sources said Manun had wanted to surrender for quite some time to fight the charges in court but his supporters and close associates advised him to delay the decision until after the general election.

Manun, the sources said, has contacted well-known human rights lawyer Thongbai Thongphao to handle his defence.

Manun has said he has a taped statement of Col Bunsak made in 1986 which contradicts with the statement the latter made which was televised by the NPKC after the coup.

In the televised statement, Col Bunsak accused Manun of being the mastermind of the assassination plots while in the taped statement which Manun claims to possess Col Bunsak has called his former classmate "highly loyal to the members of the country's highest institution."

The sources quoted Manun as saying that he would fight the case in court till the end and ask the army to restore his rank after he is proven innocent.

To Fight Charges in Court

BK1711091392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Manun Rupkhachon, who was charged on 16 September 1991 by the Police Department for either plotting or being an accomplice in the assassination plot against national leaders, gave himself up at 0830 today to authorities at the Police Department. Manun was freed on bail and fled the country in 1991 after the National Peace-Keeping Council took power and revived the case.

Manun Rupkhachon was interrogated by Police Lieutenant General Thanu Homhuan, chief of the Central Investigation Bureau, for an hour when he surrendered this morning and left the Police Department at 0930 for the Criminal Court to seek bail. Manun Rupkhachon was accompanied to the court by his lawyer, Thongbai Thongpao, a Magsaysay award winner.

Pol. Lt. Gen Thanu Homhuan, chief of the Central Investigation Bureau, reported to reporters afterward that Manun Rupkhachon surrendered to the police to fight charges in court. Today Manun denied all charges against him. He will testify at court hearings. [passage omitted]

German Official Urges Joint Action in Cambodia

BK1711024092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] The Thai and German governments should propose "international supervision" of the election process in Cambodia in order to ensure free and fair elections in that country, a leading German liberal said here yesterday.

"Elections can be held if they are free and fair and can mirror the view of the electorate...if not, elections are meaningless," Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, chairman of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), told the BANGKOK POST.

"International supervision" should not take place "just on polling day" with monitoring of polling booths, but from the start of campaigning to ensure that people are not subjected to political intimidation, he added.

The Thai and German governments should propose the idea "seriously and energetically," he pointed out.

Germany joins Thailand as a member of the core group of countries that has spearheaded the efforts of recent months to break the deadlock caused by Khmer Rouge's refusal to disarm.

A 140-strong German medical unit has joined the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cambodia. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel is a member of the FDP that is led by Dr Lambsdorff, who is concurrently president of Liberal International (LI).

The UN Security Council began informal meetings in New York last week to seek ways of holding the elections by May 1993, with or without the participation of the Khmer Rouge.

Dr Lambsdorff stressed that the Khmer Rouge must lay down their arms if they want to join the election process. "If you want peace, you have to give up weapons," he said.

Thailand is against the guerrillas being excluded from the peace process charted by the agreement signed in Paris in October 1991.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri has stressed the need for disarmament and settlement of differences before the elections take place even if this would require a delay in the timetable set by the UN.

Dr Lambsdorff said the UN peacekeeping operation in Cambodia could "not go on for ages" because it was "very expensive."

A total of 20,315 people are involved in the US$2.8 billion operation. Of these, 15,738 form the military component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Representatives of the two Cambodian political parties over the weekend expressed their belief that elections could take place in May as planned, Dr Lambsdorff noted.

They were Son Soubert and Sak Sutsakhan, respectively secretaries-general of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and the Liberal Democratic Party, two of 14 political parties that have provisionally registered to join the elections.

The Khmer Rouge face tougher measures from the UN Security Council which is expected to meet later this week.

Dr Lambsdorff said Germany would "follow the advice of other members". But he said he questioned the "efficiency " of sanctions against the guerrillas.

"So many trade relations, so many vested interests" are involved, with problems of jobs and social security to be addressed, he added.

Foreign Minister Prasong has said Thailand would comply with UN resolutions that are compatible with Thai law. But he has voiced opposition to blanket sanctions against the Marxist faction.

In addition, he has made clear that Thailand would object to the stationing of UN peacekeepers on Thai soil.

Moves reportedly are under way to adjust the mandate of UN peacekeepers, notably that of the military component, so that soldiers can help ensure security through the election process.

Despite the Khmer Rouge's intransigence an estimated 55,000 Cambodian soldiers of the three other factions have disarmed under the Paris peace agreement's second phase which went into effect on June 13.

The agreement requires 70 per cent of the estimated 200,000 armed men of all four factions to disarm before elections take place.

Meanwhile, Dr Lambsdorff said he would advise the German government against seeking a permanent seat at the UN Security Council if expanded membership meant weakening the world body.

"What is more important is the strength of the UN," he said.

Germany, as the third largest contributor to the UN, is entitled to apply for a seat at the UN Security Council if there are plans to enlarge membership and Japan goes for it, he noted.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel indicated Germany's wish for a permanent seat in August, some months after Japan made known its intention.

There are now five permanent seats in the UN Security Council and they are occupied by Britain, China, France, Rus ia and the United States.

Dr Lambsdorff was to meet Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday afternoon, after meeing Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan over the weekend. He leaves today for Hong Kong on the second leg of a tour that will also cover South China and Japan.

Central Area Faces 'Severe' Water Shortage

BK1811024392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Farmers in the central plains will have to stop planting second rice crops, vegetables and cash crops during the coming months before the rainy season because there is barely any water for cultivation.

According to the latest report on the water situation by the National Economic and Social Development Board [NESDB] submitted to the Cabinet yesterday there are only 5,240 million cubic metres (MCM) of water left in the Phumiphon and Sirikit dams that can be used until the arrival of the next rainy season next year.

Of these, 1,000 MCM are reserved for the main crop cultivation in areas covered by Phitsanulok and Chao Phya Yai projects, 2,400 MCM reserved for consumption by people in 22 central provinces, including Bangkok; 500 MCM for driving back seawater at the estuary of the Chao Phya River, and 1,000 MCM as reserve stock.

This will leave only 340 MCM for the second crop of vegetables and other cash crop cultivation, according to the report, adding that second crop farming in areas covering 2-3 million rai normally needs 6,000 MCM.

Therefore, there will be a severe shortage of water for cultivation during the dry season, the report said.

Water reserved for electricity generation will also be reduced resulting in a cutback of hydroelectricity by about 30 per cent, the report stated.

However, this will not affect the power supply as the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) will get supplies from alternative sources.

NESDB Secretary-General Phisit Phakkasem noted that the water shortage in the Chao Phya river basin had not occurred this year, but has been going on for years and was becoming more and more serious because water consumption in areas above the dams has increased, thus reducing the amount of water getting into the dams.

He said water allocation had been introduced this year and next year with water for consumption being given top priority.

Because of the long-term trend of less rainfall in the upper North, Dr Phisit stressed the need to introduce land reform for agriculture in the Central Plains by promoting agriculture which uses less water but generates greater productivity as has been practised in Japan and Taiwan.

The NESDB chief stressed the need to launch a concerted campaign to urge people in the cities agricultural sector and industries to economise on water.

To replenish water volumes in the Phumiphon and Sirikit dams, Dr Phisit said there should be plans to divert water from other sources back to the two dams. The EGAT, he said, has started talks with Burma to draw water from the Salween and Moei rivers into the Chao Phya River. Water from the Pa Sak and the Mae Klong must also be diverted to the Chao Phya River as well he added.

The Cabinet yesterday gave the green-light for EGAT to conduct a feasibility survey of projects to divert water from two border rivers and five rivers in the country into the Phumiphon and Sirikit dams.

The Metropolitan Waterworks Authority was also told by the Cabinet to speed up the project to divert water from the Mae Klong for use as tap water.

An additional 12 million baht budget was yesterday approved by the Cabinet for the NESDB to formulate a master plan for the development of river basins throughout the country.

An irrigation expert, Pramot Maiklat, yesterday suggested the construction of a dam to block water from the Pa Sak River from being wasted by running into the sea.

He said about 2,000 MCM of water from the Pa Sak River was wasted each year. A dam could keep about 1,500 MCM for use he claimed.

As a short-term measure, the Government has allocated 17,000 million baht through various projects this fiscal year to help avert the water shortage in the Chao Phya River Basin

The Cabinet yesterday assigned Mr Phisit to form a working team to work out short and long-term measures to cope with the water shortage problem.

Cabinet Endorses Plan To Curb Shortage

BK1911042692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The Cabinet this week considered and endorsed a detailed plan for comprehensive water management to encounter [as heard] water shortage during the upcoming dry season proposed by the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board. A report by the Royal Irrigation Department says that by October 30th this year water volume in the Sirikit and Phumiphon Dams combined was at the lowest level ever. Usable water from the two reservoirs remain at 5,240 million cubic meters. The Cabinet approved the allocation plan and agreed to provide 78.4 million baht from the central fund for contingencies for the rain making unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. An extra budget of 12 million baht will be allocated to the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board for the study and formulation of a master plan to develop water basins across the country within 1993. This adds to the existing 38 million baht budget allocated for the purpose. The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand has been assigned to formulate water diversion programs from five major rivers in the

country and two rivers in the neighboring countries to increase water flow into the two major dams. The Metropolitan Water Works Authority has also been entrusted to accelerate its plan to utilize water from the Mae Klong River planned for 1997 to be implemented within next year.

Vietnam

Hanoi Reports U.S. Senator's News Conference

BK1911131292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpt of U.S. Senator John Kerry's speech at news conference held on 18 November; place not given—portion recorded]

[Text] Senator John Kerry, chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs said he and members of the delegation of the committee highly appreciate Vietnam's cooperation, goodwill in the settlement of the MIA issue.

Speaking at the press conference on the delegation's working visit to Vietnam on 18 November, Senator John Kerry joined Vietnamese and foreign newsmen:

[Begin Kerry recording] We came here to Vietnam now representing the committee to find more answers and to try to be able to be better capable of explaining to the American people, particularly to the families of MIA/POW's what we find to be the truth regarding this issue.

We express the gratitude of President Bush, President-elect Clinton, and the American people for this demonstration of cooperation and for the very clear progress which will assist our country to move towards a new relationship.

So we come here [words indistinct] three or four weeks when we issue our final report, we will have an ability to state to the American people and the executive branch our perception of what this issue means over these 20 years, of what has happened over these 20 years, and where we believe it should go now.

We started in the War Museum surrounded by the artifacts of war and talked with a colonel in full uniform about soldiers, American soldiers that he had personally witnessed as being killed, and received from him the documents which supported what he was saying. Surely that is a sign of our ability to be able to bridge the gap between us.

We had an unprecedented visit of Americans walking through the citadel, looking at areas that we have never seen before, and even visiting spontaneously the homes of Vietnamese people, who were gracious enough to receive us without warning and without expectation and to explain to us the answers to questions we had.

In addition to that we went through an extensive process, looking at specific cases, accelerating the live-sighting reports process so that the remaining reports will be completed by December 10th, accelerating the archival collection process, and received permission from President Le Duc Anh to begin a process of direct contact to veterans through the Veterans Association and other means in order to collect all history that will assist in the process of resolving cases. [end recording]

Commentary Condemns Firing on UNTAC Chopper

BK1911125492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last week, an UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] helicopter M-17 was fired at while it was flying over the Chumrum Reach flat area, about 30 kilometers southwest of Siem Riep. Another UNTAC M-17 helicopter sent to rescue the previous one was also shot at. The UNTAC spokesman, Mr. Eric Falt, indignantly denounced the culprits of this shooting. Here is our radio comment on this question.

Not only the UNTAC spokesman, but also public opinion expressed resentment over the action, because over the past year since UNTAC deployed its operation in Cambodia, 18 UNTAC aircraft were shot down or fired at. These men did not do anything wrong, they were conducting their duty within the framework of the Paris peace agreement. It is said that the culprits of this shooting are the Khmer Rouge. Mr. Eric Falt said that the two UNTAC helicopters were flying over the Khmer Rouge control area and that the Khmer Rouge should be responsibile for this act.

Why [words indistinct] that the shooting was made at the time when the unofficial conference on Cambodia was organized in Beijing? At this conference, the Khmer Rouge criticized the role and task of UNTAC in Cambodia. People wonder whether the Khmer Rouge are [word indistinct] hindering the peace process in Cambodia through their military action.

Pham The Duyet Attends War Veterans' Congress

BK1911093392 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] On the occasion of the First National Congress of the Vietnam War Veteran Association [VWVA] to be held on 19-20 November, the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee on 16 November organized a cordial get-together of leaders of 53 delegations to the congress, who come from provinces and municipalities throughout the country.

Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, briefed these leaders on the results achieved in various fields, during the past period, by the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee and people. He said that the Capital Party Committee also

received positive contributions from the VWVA organizations at the municipal and grass-roots levels.

Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Tra, provisional vice chairman of the VWVA, thanked the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee for its warm welcome and hospitality extended to delegates of the VWVA.

Army Paper Welcomes Congress

BK1911085392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 18 Nov 92

[19 November QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial: "The Vietnam War Veterans' Association, a Powerful Political Force and a Valuable National Asset"]

[Text] The first national congress of delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association opens solemnly in Hanoi today. Together with war veterans and compatriots nationwide, our entire Army expresses its admiration for and profound feelings toward the congress of many generations of Uncle Ho's soldiers who have earned numerous orders and medals in recognition of their proud feats-of-arms.

The birth of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association two years ago has added another revolutionary mass organization to our country. This organization consists of war veterans of both sexes who have been forged by the revolutionary war, have wholeheartedly devoted their lifetime to serving the revolution and people, and have made countless contributions to the national liberation struggle and the task of building and defending the socialist fatherland.

The association is a truly powerful political force full of experience and wisdom. Its members are strongly motivated and display a high sense of responsibility toward the future of the nation. The association has served as a trustworthy instrument of the party, state, and people, and has proved itself to be a valuable asset of our nation.

When it came into existence more than two years ago, the association was completely inexperienced in organization and operating procedures. However, it has quickly developed its strength, especially at the grassroots level. When they started their new lives, 4 million war veterans and more than 700,000 association members faced countless difficulties. However, thanks to the fine quality of Uncle Ho's soldiers, they have all achieved great results, contributing opinions to the leadership at all levels and directly participating in the movement to build and boost the economy, to maintain security and order, to implement the rear-army policy, and to educate the young generations about the need to fight against negativism. Their activities have brought about practical results, have positively helped maintain political stability, and have created great influence and prestige in the people.

The first national congress of delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association will be an important milestone reasserting the role, position, potential, and strength of the association. The congress will evaluate the association's work performance over the past two years; set forth new objectives, orientations, and practical tasks for the days ahead; adopt the association's statute and operating principles; and elect the association's executive committee.

Our country has recorded important initial progress. However, many difficulties still lie ahead. Given the current situation, the association's greatest influence rests first of all with the determination to pursue until the end the socialist objectives and ideals that Vietnamese war veterans have devoted their lifetime to make them come true. Therefore, it is necessary for the congress to display great solidarity, single-mindedness, truthfulness, straightfordwardness, and seriousness. Concentrated efforts must be made to discuss ways to implement the ideological task among association members, motivate war veterans throughout the country to remain firm despite complicated developments, and turn the association into a a real fortress where everyone upholds the sense of solidarity and single-mindedness and displays an iron determination to rally around the party and to realize Uncle Ho's revolutionary objectives.

The association is a component of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] and commands high prestige in the people. Most of its members carry out their activities at the grassroots level through practical tasks. It is necessary for the congress to attach primary importance to the building and consolidation of the all-people solidarity bloc. Along with focussing on the implementation of political tasks aimed at making local organizations firm and strong in all fields, the association's organizations at all levels, especially at the grass-roots level, should positively help with the implementation of national defense and security tasks; the campaign against corruption and negativism; and the movement to restore and firmly maintain party discipline, state law, and social order at the grass-roots level.

It is everyone's responsibility to help with the education of the young generations. However, owing to their prestige and influence, war veterans assume an extremely great role in this area. It is necessary for the congress to define the individual responsibility of each association member and discuss practical measures to coordinate action with the educational activities designed by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee, mass societies, and social organizations to help youths live up to their ideals, especially now that the international situation is developing in a more and more complicated fashion each passing day.

The Vietnam War Veterans' Association is the organization of the aged people who have devoted most of their lifetime serving the revolution. All of them have led a pure, frugal life. One of the important topics of discussion at the congress is the need to work out practical

measures to meet the concrete material and spiritual needs of association members and war veterans as a whole, taking into account the fact that these measures must be suited to each person's skills and health conditions. If the association does a good job in this area, it will be able not only to rally more and more members but also meet the common aspirations of the party and people at a time when the national socioeconomic situation is still rife with numerous difficulties.

Amid an enthusiastic atmosphere created by the first national congress of delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association, our entire Army wishes the congress success and hopes that it will formulate a practical program of action to posively help make the nation prosperous and powerful.

Thai Crown Prince Visits Ho Chi Minh City

BK1811150292 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 18—Thai Crown Prince Wachiralongkon left here this morning for Ho Chi Minh City, the second leg of his official visit to Vietnam.

The official farewell ceremony was held at the presidential palace in the presence of Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice Premier Nguyen Khanh, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and other high-ranking officials.

The Thai crown prince is accompanied to Ho Chi Minh City by Nguyen Viet Dung, head of the presidential office, Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung and Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chayanam.

Party General Secretary Receives French Guests

BK1811150192 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 18 NOV 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 18—Party General Secretary Do Muoi this afternoon received a visiting delegation of the French Communist Party led by Francis Wurts, politburo member of the Party Central Committee and leader of its commission for external reations.

Speaking at the reception, Mr. Francis Wurtz expressed his joy at witnessing the fine achievements recorded by the Vietnam people in their implementation of the resolution of the Seventh CPV Congress, and affirmed that the French Communists will do their utmost to consolidate and develop the long-standing relations between the two parties, strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples in the interests of the two nations, of peace and stability in the world.

General Secretary Do Muoi expressed his wish that the fraternal friendship between the two parties fostered by the late President Ho Chi Minh and leaders of the French Communist Party will further develop and last forever.

Host and guest also informed each other of the activities of each party, and agreed to make regular contacts aimed at strengthening their mutual understanding and solidarity.

PRC Journalists' Delegation Visits

BK1711145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 17—A delegation of the Chinese Journalists Association led by Wu Chien Kuo [name as received], member of the Standing Committee of the association and deputy head of the commission for research of the Communist Party of China history, has paid a ten-day working visit to Vietnam from Nov. 8.

The delegation held talks with a delegation of the Vietnam Journalists' Association led by Tran Cong Man, deputy general secretary of the association.

The Chinese journalists were received on separate occasions by Ha Dang, head of the ideological and cultural commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Phan Quang, general secretary of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, who expressed the wish for continual development of the relations among journalists of the two countries.

A cordial meeting was arranged this evening between the delegation and the representatives of mass media in Hanoi.

PRC Cultural Delegation Signs Agreement

BK1911064992 Hanoi VNA in English 0555 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 19—A delegation of the Chinese Ministry of Culture led by Vice Minister Liu Deyou paid a four-day visit to Vietnam ended yesterday.

While here it was received by Minister of Culture and Information Tran Hoan.

It held talks with a delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture led by Vice Minister Dinh Quang. The two vice ministers initialed an agreement on cultural cooperation.

Present at the signing ceremony were Minister Tran Hoan and Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei.

The Chinese delegation called at some cultural establishments in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Leaders Receive German Economic Delegation

BK1611153392 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 16—Nong Duc Manh, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam and chairman of the National Assembly, received here today the visiting government economic delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany led by C. S. Shilling, minister of posts and telecommunications.

Also present at the reception was German Ambassador Jurgen Elias.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh thanked the German Government and more particularly the German Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications for their cooperation with Vietnam in the field of communications and television. He said that the cooperative projects in the domain are the basis of the infrastructure which will greatly contribute to the process of renovation in Vietnam. The National Assembly of Vietnam highly appreciates the cooperation between the two governments and peoples, and will create every possible condition to make this cooperation ever more expanded and effective, he said.

On the same day, the delegation was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

It also attended the inauguration of the Hanoi-Vinh digital microwave link built with German assistance.

Minister Shilling introduced to Premier Vo Van Kiet the possibilities of Germany in the transfer of modern telecommunications technology, in cooperating with Vietnam to establish the Hanoi-Bonn telecommunications link, in personnel training and other infrastructural works. He affirmed that Germany is ready to cooperate with and help Vietnam in several fields in the interests of the two countries, for peace, friendship and cooperation in the world.

German-Built Microwave Link Inaugurated

BK1711061592 Hanoi VNA in English 0536 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 17—Vietnam inauguarated its first wideband microwave link on Monday afternoon.

The 140 MB/S link, between Hanoi and the city of Vinh 300 km to the south, is built by Siemens. It is part of the backbone wideband digital microwave system to be extended as far south as Danang at this initial stage.

Speaking at the opening ceremony Director General Dang Van Than of Vietnam's General Department of Posts and Telecommunications said that despite the U.S. embargo, German firms had been cooperating with Vietnam with good will and in a spirit of mutual benefit.

He recalled the participation of Ant-Bosch in supplying optical fiber equipment for the Hanoi-Noi Bai airport link and Rohber and Schwarz in building a 10 kw colour TV station in Hanoi.

Siemens, he said has previously built an EWSD switching centre in Cho Lon, Ho Chi Minh City.

Speaking on the same occasion, German Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Christian Schwarz-Schilling said investment in telecommunications played a very vital role in the development of a country. He said he was glad that the Vietnamese Government had clearly realised the importance of undertaking in this field.

German Delegation Attends Ceremony

BK1711150592 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 17—A governmental economic delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany led by Christian Schwarz Schilling, minister of posts and telecommunications, has been visiting Vietnam since Nov. 14.

The delegation includes 20 businessmen in the posts and telecommunications service and some other areas. It was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Chairman of the National Assembly Nong Duc Manh and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

The German guests attended here yesterday the inaugural ceremony of the 140 mb/s wideband microwave link between Hanoi and the city of Vinh, 300 km to the south built by Siemens. They had working sessions with the General Director of the General Department of Posts and Telecomunications Dang Van Than. The two sides exchanged views on measures to expand cooperation in the fields of posts and telecommunications.

Mr. Christian Schwarz Schilling stressed that Germany wants to assist Vietnam in the transfer of modern technologies in telecommunications, experiences in upgrading the telephone system, training of managers, maintenance and operation of the new equipment and extension of Vietnam's international links. Together with the opening of the Hanoi-Bonn direct link to effect a money-transfer service and other economic exchanges between the two countries Germany will help Vietnam build wideband microwave links from Ho Chi Minh City to the Mekong River delta, and from Quy Nhon to the central highlands and upgrade the electronic telephone exchanges in Hanoi and HCM City. All these projects will be implemented in the form of instalment payments over a period of five years and the German side will stand long-term guarantee for the supply of equipment to Vietnam.

The minister promised to help Vietnam shorten the period for the renewal of its telecommunications system under the plans up to the year 2000.

This morning, Minister Christian Schwarz Schilling and Mr. Dang Van Than met with the representatives of the Vietnamese and foreign mass media to inform them of the result of the delegation's visit.

Vice President Attends NGO Assistance Workshop

BK1611153992 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 16—A workshop on the assistance of the non-governmental organisation (NGO) to Vietnam was held here today.

Present were Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, vice president of the republic and president of the Vietnam Union of Organizations for Peace, Solidarityy and Friendship

(UOPSF) Nguyen Dy Nien, deputy foreign minister and ministers and vice ministers of the concerned services.

Also present were representatives of 54 NGOs, or various foreign embassies and United Nations agencies in Hanoi.

In her opening speech, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh said: "The relations between Vietnam and NGOs have seen new steps of development which conform with the open-door foreign policy of the Vietnamese state, and with the objectives of NGOs which is to help people in the southern part of the glove [as received] overcome poverty and backwardness, and build a good material and spiritual life. [no closing quotation marks as received]

She expressed her hope that the result of the workshop would contribute to further promoting the effectiveness of the non-governmental aid to Vietnam.

The participants heard Mr. Nguyen Van Thanh, vice president of the UOPSF, reporting on Vietnam and NGO relations, Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien reporting on Vietnam's foreign policy, Mr. Michel P. Gautier, acting representative of UNDP [United Nations Development Program] in Hanoi reporting on the UN aid programme to Vietnam and also a report on NGO's humanitariann aid to Vietnam in the past years as well as the outstanding questions to be overcome in order to make NGO's aid more effective.

Nationwide 10-Month Paddy Yield Reported

BK1711134292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] According to the Statistics General Department, to date, the northern provinces have completed about two-thirds of the 10th-month rice harvest with a fairly high paddy yield. Generally speaking, rice develops well in the southern provinces thanks to the slight impact of harmful insects and diseases. The first part of the harvest has already been completed. Thanks to a constant improvement of the weather conditions near the end of the crop season, the 10th-month paddy yield will be higher compared with the initial projected figures, especially in the northern provinces.

It is expected that the 10th-month paddy yield nationwide will reach about 27.6 quintals per hectare, with 29 quintals per hectare in the north and 26.3 quintals per hectare in the south. The 10th-month paddy yield nationwide will reach 7.54 million tonnes, with 3.77 million tonnes in the north and another 3.77 million tonnes in the south. Thus, this year, our country is expected to reap a bumper harvest in all three crop seasons with the total paddy yield projected to reach about 24 million tonnes in the whole country.

Australia

Results of Joint Forum With Indonesia Reviewed

BK1811080892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0600 GMT 18 Nov 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Members of the largest and most senior delegation of Australian Government ministers ever to visit neighboring Indonesia are on their way home after the two-day ministerial forum, which ended yesterday in Jakarta.

The forum, the first in what is to be a continuing series of high-level gatherings, focused principally on economic and commercial issues. Ian Mackintosh reports from Jakarta that despite the 11th hour postponement of the signing of one much publicized agreement, the meeting has been praised by both sides.

[Begin Mackintosh recording] The ministerial forum had enjoyed a big buildup. On the eve of the meeting it was being variously described as a new high point and a brand new era in bilateral relations. Given such supportive and, it could be argued, justifiable prior billing, it was probably inevitable that any setback experienced during that gathering would attract attention. And so it was when the signing of a bilateral agreement on nuclear science cooperation was postponed at the last minute.

The agreement, many months in negotiation, was one of five expected to be signed during the Jakarta forum. But late on Monday its progress was derailed when Indonesia's research and technology minister, Dr. B.J. Habibie, balked at putting his signature to the accord. In what officials rather euphemistically referred to as a procedural glitch, the minister told his Australian counterpart, Senator John Button, that the agreement should become part of a broader umbrella arrangement covering all aspects of bilateral dealings in science and technology. That last minute change of tack pointed up the uncertainties which will continue to creep into bilateral dealings.

Ironically, it had been the Australians who had had to defend the draft nuclear accord from public criticism at home whilst the Indonesians appeared ready to conclude it. There was also predictable concern in both camps that the nonsigning might detract from a range of achievements notched up during the preceding two days—four bilateral agreements completed dealing with investment protection, copyright, customs arrangements, and education, and a creation of two high-level working groups to help accelerate progress in trade, investment, and economic cooperations.

But at the final press conference, various ministers insisted that the two countries were making big strides in building stronger ties, broadly-based commercially oriented ties, which Canberra and Jakarta hope will enable them to weather the shocks which have periodically bedevilled their political dealings.

They also stressed that two neighbors with such differing social and cultural backgrounds have many economic prospects in common which could be jointly realized, and reporters were told the ministers had even been able to joke about themselves, the personal contacts made auguring well for future dealings. That, of course, assumes possible cabinet changes in both countries early next year won't dramatically alter this week's tasks.

Co-leader of the Australian delegation, the industry minister, Senator Button, said the forum marked a huge step forward in goodwill and collaboration between the two countries; all a far cry, it seemed, from the tensions of the not too distant past. As Indonesia's senior economic minister, Mr. Radius Prawiro, saw it on Monday, there has been a remarkable healing in the relationship in recent years following a low point in 1986 which he said almost brought us to blows.

But the influential English language daily, THE JAKARTA POST, has since published a more down-to-earth assessment of bilateral ties. A POST editorial said the relationship still lacks substantial solid ground of the type capable of withstanding the sudden political and emotional disturbances that are difficult to entirely prevent between peoples of such disparate cultural backgrounds. The newspaper said differences in values on either side of the Timor Sea needed to be bridged, but erasing old stereotypes in both countries was not easy. [end recording]

Fiji

Greenhouse Effect Monitoring Equipment Received

BK1911071492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Fiji has become the first of twelve South Pacific nations to receive sophisticated climate change and sea level monitoring stations from Australia. The equipment is designed to give early warning of changes associated with the greenhouse effect.

South Pacific correspondent Jemima Garrett said the stations are part of the $7 million project announced by Australia's former Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the 1989 South Pacific Forum in Kiribati.

[Begin Garrett recording] The monitoring stations will provide very accurate measurements of sea level and associated weather conditions to be instantly beamed back to the National Tidal Facility in Adelaide for analysis. There scientists will have to take into account a bewildering array of factors ranging from movements in the earth crust and the impact of El Nino phenomenon through to local conditions.

The director of the National Tidal Facility, Jeff Lennon, says it may be 20 years before a clear assessment of the

impact of greenhouse changes can be made. In the meantime, he hopes to provide improved weather forecasts and tidal predictions.

The first station was installed at Lautoka Wharf on Fiji's main island. The rest are expected to be installed within the next few months. [end recording]

New Telecommunications Facility Extends Network

BK1911072092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Fiji International Telecommunications Limited, known as FINTEL, has joined the Pacific Telecommunications Network, enabling it for the first time to provide direct links with some of the smaller islands in the region.

FINTEL's general manager, John Manakiem, said the move will provide a considerable improvement in the quality of services as well as a reduction in operating costs. Mr. Manakiem said that in addition to providing direct telephone and fax services, the Pacific network enables member organizations to offer specialized services to agencies involved in distant teaching, civil aviation, and the exchange of fisheries and other research data.

FINTEL's earth receiving and transmission station in Suva is expected to go into service late next month. The network was organized by the Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation and utilized a new technology which enables network members to pay only for satellite time actually used.

Nauru

Parliament Narrowly Reelects President Dowiyogo

BK1911044692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 19 NOV 92

[Text] Melbourne, Australia, Nov 19 (AFP)—Parliament in the South Pacific nation of Nauru reelected President Bernard Dowiyogo for a three-year term on Thursday, Nauru Government office here announced.

Dowiyogo received 10 votes to seven for the challenger, former Cabinet Minister Buraro Detudamo, on a second poll.

The new parliament, elected last Saturday, was evenly split nine-nine on a first vote on Wednesday and it was not until Paul Jereamia was elected to the non-voting post of speaker on Thursday that the deadlock could be broken.

Dowiyogo served as president from December 1976 until April 1978, and was again elected to the post in December 1989.

Nauru has a government representative office in Melbourne, where its chief justice also resides.

Dowiyogo later announced the names of five ministers to serve in his new cabinet, which was then sworn in by Chief Justice Sir Gaven Donne in Nauru.

The cabinet list is:

President, minister of island development and industry, civil aviation, external affairs and public service: Bernard Dowiyogo

Minister assisting the president, minister of works and community services, internal affairs: Vincent Detenamo

Minister of finance: Vinci Clodumar

Minister of education: Pres Nimes Ekwona

Minister of justice: Derog Gioura

Minister of health: Ludwig Scotty